

HELP YOUR STUDENTS DISCOVER AURORA

Immerse your students in nature and stimulate their minds with experiential learning activities. The city of Aurora offers interactive, naturalist-guided programs to help connect your classroom to Aurora's natural world.

City naturalists offer a variety of exciting programs designed with the specific needs of school curricula in mind. The programs are hands-on, inquiry-based and age-appropriate and cover a broad range of topics with emphasis on science, ecology and Aurora's natural resources. The programs fulfill requirements for most Colorado State Standards Life Science competencies and connect Common Core State Standards and STEM principles to real-world experiences.

Our high-quality program offerings provide:

- Field trips guided by nationally-certified and award-winning naturalist staff
- Indoor and outdoor facilities for field trips
- Options for programs to be brought to your school
- Convenient times on weekdays and weekends

Let us help you support your students as they create deep and personal connections to the natural world.

AURORA NATURE CENTERS



Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch

16002 E. Smith Road • 303.326.8445
Wednesday-Friday, noon—4:30 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday, 9 a.m.—4:30 p.m.



Senac Creek Nature Center at Aurora Reservoir

5800 S. Powhatan Road • 303.326.8429
Wednesday-Friday, noon—4:30 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday, 9 a.m.—4:30 p.m.



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SCHOOL PROGRAMS

HELPING STUDENTS DISCOVER AURORA

AuroraGov.org/Nature



PROGRAM OPTIONS ◀◀

All programs can be adapted to any grade level and customized to meet time and cost constraints. Most programs can be tailored to accommodate participants with special needs.

AURORA WILDLIFE, LIFE CYCLES AND ADAPTATIONS

Discover the wildlife that lives in Aurora and the adaptations they use to help them survive. Students explore animal pelts and skulls, participate in food chain and life cycle activities, and enjoy naturalist-guided discovery time on the trail.

INSECTS AND OTHER ARTHROPODS

Insects and their cousins are some of the most important creatures in Aurora. In this indoor and outdoor program, students learn about the different kinds of arthropods, then head outside to catch them and explore.

AURORA HABITATS AND ECOSYSTEMS

Aurora is home to five diverse ecosystems and many more types of habitats. In this program, students take a "tour" of Aurora ecosystems and habitats, learn about wildlife and plant life in each, and who the key players are and why they are important.

AURORA WATER AND WATER QUALITY

Aurora boasts some of the best water in the country. Using water quality tests (3rd grade and up), aquatic invertebrate exploration and other interactive activities, students learn where our water comes from, who relies on it and our role in keeping it clean and conserving it for future generations.

AURORA PLANTS AND HABITATS

This program combines plants and habitats to fit second grade FOSS science kit based curriculum. Students build a plant and make a plant necklace, then hit the trail to explore local habitats and their residents (interactive indoor habitat presentation if at your school).

AURORA WATER AND ECOLOGY

This program combines water education with the animals that need it and their adaptations. Students learn about who relies on clean water in Aurora through aquatic invertebrate exploration and discover ways to keep our water safe and clean while exploring animal adaptations using pelts, skulls and discovery time on the trail.



AURORA PLANTS

Without plants, nothing in Aurora would survive, yet they have some of the toughest lives in nature. Students learn the parts of a plant, adaptations for plant survival and build a plant necklace that actually grows!

AURORA BIRDS

Birds are everywhere and they can tell us a lot about our world. Students learn about feathers and flight, how and what birds eat (through games and owl pellet dissection – a month booking time is required to ensure we have the pellets), and spend time outside watching and learning about our feathered friends.

ANCIENT AURORA

Aurora's ancient past is as diverse and interesting as its present. Students study the rock cycle, build a timeline of Earth's history according to the fossil record and journey through Aurora's ancient ecosystems to discover our earliest residents.

WILDLIFE AWARENESS AND SAFETY

Is it possible to coexist with wildlife? We believe it is, and that coexistence is important for both humans and wildlife. Students learn about the animals that live in our city, why they are here and how we can safely coexist with them.

SPECIAL INTEREST TOPICS

Aurora's Spookiest Creatures • Aurora Bats • Venomous, Poisonous and Deadly • Aurora Raptors • Coyote Country • Honeybees • Aurora Plants and Wildflowers • Insects that Sting • Prairie Rattlesnakes • Reptiles and Amphibians

If you're interested in a topic not listed, just ask, we may be able to accommodate your request.

THE DETAILS ◀◀

SCHEDULING A PROGRAM IS SIMPLE AND EASY!

- Choose a topic.
- Select a date and time. Select several date options – our schedule fills up quickly.
- Pick a location. Bring your group to one of our fabulous facilities or we can come to you.
- A minimum of 10 participants is required to schedule a naturalist-guided program and some sites have participant limits as few as 30.
- Call 303.326.8382 or email nature@auroragov.org with any questions or to schedule a program.

FEES FOR NATURALIST-DIRECTED PROGRAMS

The city of Aurora naturalist program requests a donation of \$1 per student for those within the Cherry Creek and Aurora Public School districts. The \$1 per student fee is required for other school districts. Please make checks payable to the city of Aurora. Credit cards are not accepted.

PROGRAM VENUES

City of Aurora naturalists offer programs at the Morrison Nature Center and Senac Creek Nature Center or we can come to you. Call 303.326.8382 to discuss having your presentation at a park or open space near your school.