



# ROCKY RIVER NATURE CENTER

SCHOOL & GROUP PROGRAM GUIDE



24000 Valley Parkway | North Olmsted, OH 44070  
(440) 734-6660 | [clevelandmetroparks.com/rrenc](http://clevelandmetroparks.com/rrenc)

Cleveland Metroparks offers a wide variety of programs that align with Ohio's Learning Standards and are taught by our trained professional educators.

## SCHEDULING A PROGRAM

---

Reservations are required for all school and group programs and must be made at least two weeks in advance (3 months is preferred). **Programs are free of charge for schools and groups within Cuyahoga County and Hinckley Township**, unless otherwise noted.

---

### To schedule a program:

Call 440-734-6660, email [rockyrivernc@clevelandmetroparks.com](mailto:rockyrivernc@clevelandmetroparks.com) with the following information or fill out a program request at [clevelandmetroparks.com/RequestaProgram](http://clevelandmetroparks.com/RequestaProgram)

1. Program choice(s)
2. Preferred and alternate dates and times and location
3. School/group name, address, phone number, email and contact person
4. Grade/age level and number of people in your group (10-student minimum)
5. Any special needs of the group

### Programs offered at Rocky River Nature Center, Bradley Woods, Huntington, Lakefront and Rocky River reservations:

- Most programs take place outdoors or have an outdoor component. Please dress for the weather and wear closed-toe shoes. Programs take place rain or shine.
- Program length varies by content and by age.
- Call if you are unable to keep your appointment or group size changes.

### Programs offered at your school or location:

- If your group is unable to visit one of our locations, we can visit your location for free within the park district (Cuyahoga County and Hinckley Township). There is a charge for programs outside the park district.
- Programs at your location must have a minimum of 20 people.

### Custom Programs

Many programs can be customized to meet your needs, including virtual options. Looking for something other than what is offered in the program guide? Call to discuss.

### Transportation Vouchers

Schools in Cuyahoga County and Hinckley Township may apply for full or partial reimbursement from the Field Trip Transportation Fund to support the cost of travel to one of our locations for a program. Please inquire about the process and how to apply.

## ADA Statement

Cleveland Metroparks staff can adapt many programs to be accessible to anyone who would like to participate, assuming they meet the essential eligibility criteria. Reasonable accommodation can also be provided. Please make a request at the time of registration but no later than 72 business hours prior to the program. Contact us at 440-734-6660.

Program locations labeled by color throughout this guide.

- BWR** | Bradley Woods Reservation
- HuR** | Huntington Reservation
- LR** | Lakefront Reservation
- RRR** | Rocky River Reservation
- RRNC** | Rocky River Nature Center
- OR** | Outreach (at your school or location)



## PRE-KINDERGARTEN

### Nature Through the Senses

**BWR HuR LR RRR RRNC OR**

Join us to discover how people and animals use their senses. See, smell and hear the wonders of nature in this guided nature experience.

## KINDERGARTEN

### Classify This!

**BWR HuR LR RRR RRNC OR**

Explore the differences between living and nonliving things and the basic life cycles of familiar wildlife in this program about growth and change.

### Maple Sugaring: From Sunlight to Syrup

**RRR RRNC**

Participate in hands-on activities and games to identify maple trees and to explore the process of making syrup. Program only available in the month of March.



### Nature Through the Senses

**BWR HuR LR RRR RRNC OR**

Observe the natural world by using the five senses. Compare how humans and wildlife use senses to navigate and survive in their habitat.

### StarLab

**RRNC**

Discover how the sun and moon move in our sky, and then enter the StarLab to view our moon up close. Indoor only program.

## 1st GRADE

### Growing the Future

RRNC OR

The sun provides the energy used by all living things to meet their basic needs. Discover how, in a healthy and balanced ecosystem, nature meets these needs to survive and create future generations.

### Habitat Detectives

BWR HuR LR RRR RRNC

Examine the habitats of native Ohio wildlife. Explore their life cycles, their adaptations for survival and the necessities for living and growing: food, water, shelter and space.



### Maple Sugaring: From Sunlight to Syrup

RRR RRNC

Examine the transfer of energy through plants and recognize how the structure of the maple tree helps it fulfill its needs. Program only available in the month of March.

### Water Exploration

RRNC

Through active collect-and-release, in either the pond or river, explore a variety of wetlands and the animals that call them home. Program only available May through September.

## 2nd GRADE

### Classify This!

BWR HuR LR RRR RRNC OR

Investigate how animals live in different Ohio ecosystems such as forests, rivers and wetlands. Observe how living and nonliving parts of these ecosystems interact.

### Growing the Future

RRNC OR

Humans and animals change the Earth in order to meet their needs. Discover how nature survives for generations by making changes to our local ecosystems.

### Woodland Indians of Ohio

RRNC OR

Artifacts provide clues to the past. Learn how humans used and changed objects found in their environment to provide for their daily needs.

## 3rd GRADE

---

### Grow as We Go

**BWR HuR LR RRR RRNC OR**

Explore the life cycles of familiar wildlife and understand how living things grow, change and adapt to their environment.

### Maple Sugaring: From Sunlight to Syrup

**RRR RRNC**

Identify and classify leaves, then use research skills to analyze trees for maple syrup production. Hands-on activities and games help explore the process of making syrup. Program only available in the month of March.

### Sustainable Systems

**RRNC**

Humans are part of the natural world. Learn how our choices impact our renewable and non-renewable resources.

### Woodland Indians of Ohio

**RRNC OR**

Human culture in pre-contact Ohio changed over time. Discover how trade played a significant role in the introduction of new technologies and ways of life.

## 4th GRADE

---

### Growing the Future

**RRNC OR**

Living things transfer energy from one another through the food they eat. Discover how our local environment supports the plants and animals that live here and how it can sometimes hinder their future.

### Lake Erie

**HuR LR**

Water is a tremendous force that shapes and reshapes Earth's surface. Learn how Lake Erie was originally formed by glacial ice and how this ecosystem has changed since.

### Rocks and Minerals

**RRR RRNC OR**

Examine different sedimentary rocks and then discover their role in weathering, erosion and deposition. Observe these natural processes and hypothesize how they will change the Rocky River Valley in the future.

### The Fossil Record

**RRNC**

Uncover the long-ago history of the Rocky River Valley: how the land here has changed and its effect on the animals that have called it home. Look at animals from the past, like *Dunkleosteus* and compare them to the animals that call Northeast Ohio home today.

### Woodland Indians of Ohio

**RRNC OR**

Pre-contact Native Americans thrived in Ohio by living off the land and trading with one another. Hands-on items help students better understand their way of life.

## 5th & 6th GRADES

### Growing the Future

RRNC

Plants and animals in ecosystems rely upon one another for survival. Equally, ecosystems rely on those same organisms to stay healthy, with the future of both dependent on one another. Discover how this balance is maintained in our local Northeast Ohio habitats.

### Maple Sugaring: From Sunlight to Syrup

RRR RRNC

Identify the importance of photosynthesis for sap production and use research skills to analyze the trees for maple syrup production. Hands-on activities will explore the process of making syrup and predict the future of maple syrup production with climate change. Program only available in the month of March.

### Rocks and Minerals

RRNC OR

Learn about igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks and how they are formed. Discover the characteristics of different types of rocks and minerals. Learn about the rocks of Northeast Ohio, how they are used today and ways they were used in the past.



### StarLab

RRNC

Our solar system includes all objects that orbit our sun. Explore our solar system on a smaller scale, and then climb into the StarLab to view our night sky up close. Indoor only program.

### Water Exploration

RRNC

Organisms perform a variety of roles in an ecosystem. Investigate aquatic animals, their unique habitat requirements and physical adaptations for survival through active collect-and-release in either the pond or river. Program only available May through September.

### Growing the Future

RRNC

All living things need energy. This energy, derived from the sun, is used and transferred between organisms but is never lost completely. Find out how local flora and fauna use and transfer this energy and how forest composition and species populations affect the ongoing survival of these native plants and animals.

### Lake Erie

HuR LR

Ohio's natural history is both shaped by and has shaped the Lake Erie watershed. Evaluate the hydrology, health of the lake and the growth and survival of organisms that live there.

### Maple Sugaring: From Sunlight to Syrup

RRNC RRNC

Examine the transfer of energy from the sun to the tree and how the structure of the maple tree helps it fulfill its needs. Hands-on activities will explore the process of making syrup and its future with climate change. Program only available in the month of March.

### The Fossil Record

RRNC OR

Use the fossil record to look at how animals living in Northeast Ohio have changed over time. Learn about *Dunkleosteus* and traits that became common among varied species through evolution. Identify adaptations in both animals alive today and animals from the fossil record.



### Water Exploration

RRNC

The number, growth and survival of organisms and populations depend on various biotic and abiotic factors. Explore our nearby wetlands, through collect-and-release, to assess the diversity of animal species living in our aquatic ecosystems. Learn the numerous ways that scientists determine the health of a waterway and the factors that influence those decisions. Program only available May through September.

## **Bradley Woods**

**BWR**

Focus on the interconnections of living things by exploring food chains and webs, predator-prey relationships and adaptations for survival. Explore how distinct species live in unique Ohio ecosystems and microhabitats, such as forests, rivers and wetlands. Investigate the intricacies of identifying plants and animals to species and delve into the natural history of local keystone species and their niches.

## **Growing the Future**

**RRNC**

All living things need energy, but as our world continues to change, fewer sources of healthy, local foods are available to humans and wildlife. Explore how themes of gardening, food production and wildlife conservation merge to create a more resilient future.

## **Lake Erie**

**HuR LR**

Lake Erie provides us with a unique ecosystem to study and explore. Discover how population dynamics and water quality are affected by weather events and future climate change patterns.

## **Rocks and Minerals**

**RRR RRNC**

Observe and identify sedimentary rocks in the Rocky River Valley. Discuss the formation and mineral makeup of various types of sedimentary rocks. Connect rocks to different environments of the past, look at today's environment and hypothesize how today's landscape will affect the next generation of rocks.

## **Sustainable Systems**

**RRNC**

Humans are part of the natural world, and our choices impact our planet. Explore how our local ecosystems, including the renewable and non-renewable resources, are being impacted by land and water use policy, pollution and climate change.

## **The Fossil Record**

**RRNC**

From fossils and the rock surrounding them, we can infer what the climate and environment was like millions of years ago. View and identify the rock formations of the Rocky River Valley and discuss what they tell us about past ecosystems in Northeast Ohio. Discuss geologic time and wildlife of the area, past and present.

## **Water Exploration**

**RRNC**

Explore our nearby wetlands through active collect-and-release and observe how a healthy waterway should operate regarding biodiversity and species interaction. Investigators will learn the intense impact of pollution on watershed systems and the vital need for conservation. Program only available May through September.

## ADULT/COMMUNITY GROUP PROGRAMS

### Ohio Wildlife

RRNC OR

Explore the fantastic diversity of animals that live in Ohio. A variety of pelts, skulls, bones and other objects will be shown. This indoor only program may contain a live animal and is not designed to meet specific Ohio Learning Standards.



Contact Rocky River Nature Center for additional program options.

### What's New in Nature?

**BWR HuR LR RRR RRNC**

What is happening in the natural world right now? Join us for a guided hike, where we will discover and explore the sights and sounds of the season. This program takes place outdoors. This program is not designed to meet specific Ohio Learning Standards.





Scan the QR code to visit Rocky River Nature Center page  
or go to [clevelandmetroparks.com/rnrc](https://clevelandmetroparks.com/rnrc)



**Cleveland  
Metroparks®**