



THE WILDERNESS CENTER



School & Youth  
Programs  
2022–2023



Bring your group to explore nature, science, and natural history through experiential learning set on 650 acres of incredible natural habitat. Spend a memorable day of adventure engaged in hands-on investigations and data collection in a variety of land-based labs. We have increased the length of most of our programs for the 2022-23 school year to provide time to apply the learning in order to make your experience meaningful. We now offer 2 tracks for programs:

Programs for grades K-3, duration = 1.5 hours

Programs for grades 4-12, duration = 2 hours

The content of programs within a track can be adapted to any age and skill level, and features a coherent storyline that connects the learning to the real world. This design is intended to help you to build on your experience at The Wilderness Center with pre- or post- activities.

We are also pleased to continue our popular 1-hour nature hikes, now offered with a choice of themes, and a variety of 1-hour planetarium shows.

Need help deciding? Call or email the education team to have one of our educators assist you in designing a high-impact program for your group.

phone: 330-359-5235

email: [programs@wildernesscenter.org](mailto:programs@wildernesscenter.org)

#### About The Wilderness Center:

The Wilderness Center is situated on 650 beautiful acres. TWC provides quality habitat to a wide variety of Ohio flora and fauna, approximately 12 miles of hiking trails, and educational programs for schools, youth groups, and the community. TWC engages in numerous conservation efforts including watershed restoration, green burial services, sustainable forestry, protecting our pollinators, Dark Skies Initiative, and habitat restoration.



# Planning Your Trip to The Wilderness Center

## **Program Registration and Customization:**

Register for TWC field trips on our website: <https://wildernesscenter.org/school-youth-group-programs/>. Call 330-359-5235 with any questions or if you are unable to register through our website.

All programs have pre- and post- activities available. Email [jennifer@wildernesscenter.org](mailto:jennifer@wildernesscenter.org) to receive classroom curricular materials and support for programs at TWC.

The TWC education team is happy to work with you on custom requests. Call or email the education team to explore additional options or to accommodate special needs.

phone: 330-359-5235      email: [programs@wildernesscenter.org](mailto:programs@wildernesscenter.org)

## **Program Availability, including Off-site Programs:**

Programs are normally available Tues-Friday from 9:00-4:00. To request programs outside of these hours, call 330-359-5235 or email [programs@wildernesscenter.org](mailto:programs@wildernesscenter.org).

TWC programs are designed to be conducted at The Wilderness Center using our considerable resources. However, if you would like to schedule a TWC educator to come to your site, we offer two traveling programs: Discovery Hike or Off-site Field Study. These programs have a \$50 surcharge to cover the extra travel time and expenses. To request TWC educators to come to your site for a custom program, email [programs@wildernesscenter.org](mailto:programs@wildernesscenter.org).

## **Additional Amenities Available For Your Trip:**

We encourage you to enjoy the following amenities while your group is at The Wilderness Center at no additional charge: Nature Playscape, lunch at one of our picnic shelters, hiking trails, and Interpretive Building displays. At your discretion, there is also a Nature Store gift shop which students can visit during the trip.

## **Weather Contingency Programs and Program Cancellation:**

Programs at The Wilderness Center are developed as hands-on, primarily outdoor learning experiences. Outdoor classes will continue except during dangerous weather conditions. We have extra rain ponchos available to borrow. In the rare event that the weather completely prevents us from outdoor programming, there are two contingency options offered fully indoor: one on insects, and all planetarium shows.

If you choose to cancel your booking, you must do so a minimum of 3 days prior to your event. Failure to cancel your booking at least 3 days before your scheduled trip will result in a \$25 cancellation fee.



## **Group Programs Fall 2022–Spring 2023**

### **K–3 Programs (1.5 hours except as noted)**

Programs in green are available September 12, 2022. Programs in yellow are available January 9, 2023. Custom programs (blue) can be requested at any time but may require some preparation time. These programs are offered at The Wilderness Center. If you are interested in bringing TWC educators to your site, we offer two traveling programs: Discovery Hike or Off-site Field Study. These programs have a \$50 surcharge to cover the extra travel time and expenses. To request TWC educators to come to your site for a custom program, email [programs@wildernesscenter.org](mailto:programs@wildernesscenter.org).

**Barnaby's Neighborhood** Meet Barnaby, one of The Wilderness Center's box turtles, in this engaging new program about habitats and healthy ecosystems. After learning what Barnaby needs to survive, enjoy a short hike as you look for other habitats and the plants and animals that coexist in them. Next is an inspiring story about restoring habitat, and you won't leave empty-handed! Your class will create a portable starter pollinator garden to take back to school with you.

**Wet and Wild Pond Collection** This popular program is better than ever! Begin with a short hike to our pond, where you will discover a world of activity both in and out of the water. Grab a dip net to catch macroinvertebrates, tadpoles, and the occasional salamander! Learn how to identify your catch, and then learn what they need to survive in the pond.

**Adventures With Incredible Insects!** Insects are truly amazing, and in this program, you'll learn why! First, you'll catch some insects (and maybe some other critters commonly confused with insects) and see them up close through magnifiers. Then, learn about insect bodies, and discover some incredible feats of insects! You'll even get to race roly polys!

**Investigating Soils** Soil is NOT just dirt. In this fun, hands-on program you'll learn about soil by doing experiments – LOTS of them! You'll also learn about soil problems like erosion and compaction. Finally, you'll put your knowledge to work to create some extra special, problem-free soil.

**Themed guided hike** (1-hour program) Our trails are not only beautiful, but they tell lots of stories, too. Planned to be just the right length for our younger guests, and full of amazing discoveries, our popular hikes are now better than ever, because you can choose the theme! Choose from: habitats, food web, adaptations, natural resources, or ecological change as the featured storyline of the hike.

**Planetarium shows** (1-hour program) Our full dome planetarium offers a variety of kid-friendly shows, each with a follow-up feature led by our Planetarian, Robin. For a list of shows with descriptions, or questions or customization, please contact Robin by email: [robin@wildernesscenter.org](mailto:robin@wildernesscenter.org).

**Pollinators: Nature's Superheroes**

**Tree houses and Falling Leaves: Amazing Tree Facts**

**Landforms and Rocks**

**Animals of Ohio (adaptations, endangered species, human interactions)**

**It All Begins With Water**

**Stewardship**

**Custom Programs – inquire**



### **Standards Alignment**

As always, the programs offered at The Wilderness Center reflect and align with Ohio learning standards. Please let us know if you have any special requests pertaining to alignment with standards.

### **Pricing for K-3 Wilderness Center on-site programs, 2022-2023**

	1.5 hour programs (grades K-3) (Includes materials)	1 hour programs	
		planetarium	hike
Up to 25 students	\$7/student with \$150 minimum	\$130	\$130
26-50 students	\$7/student	\$220	\$200
51-75 students	\$6.5/student	\$310	\$270
76-100 students	\$6/student	\$400	\$340
101-120 students	\$6/student	\$470	\$410
More than 120 students	Call for options	Call for options	





**Wet and Wild Pond/Stream Collection** This popular program is better than ever! Begin with a short hike to the collection site (either a stream or our pond), where you will discover a world of activity both in and out of the water. Grab a dip net or kick seine to catch macroinvertebrates, tadpoles, fish, and the occasional salamander! Use the composition of your catch to estimate the water quality of the site, and test some of the water's properties (pH, temp, oxygen).

**Stop the Insect Apocalypse!** Insects are truly amazing, and in this program you'll learn why! First, you'll catch some insects (and maybe some other critters commonly confused with insects) and see them up close through magnifiers. We'll learn 8 major insect classifications (orders), including the most important orders of insect pollinators. But wait - the loss of our dark skies is killing insects - we need to act now to stop the Insect Apocalypse! We'll end by conducting a biosurvey in the prairie to track some important local pollinators.

**Investigating Soils Soil is NOT just dirt.** In this fun, hands-on program you'll learn about soil by doing experiments - LOTS of them! You'll also learn about soil problems like erosion and compaction. Finally, you'll put your knowledge to work in an escape room type challenge to determine the state of a soil sample, and amend it to make it suitable for sustaining the microbes and fauna in a wetlands habitat.

**The Tree Lovers Guide** With their amazing heights and beauty, welcome shade, our fond memories of climbing them, and the lumber they provide, who wouldn't love trees? This new program, developed with help from a sustainable forester, will give you more reasons: the important ecosystem services that trees provide. Learn the basics of forest management, including grading tree quality, increasing habitat quality, prioritized species, promoting tree health/reducing competition, and sustainable use. Think you've got it? Evaluate a section of woodlands at TWC and develop a management plan to improve it, then see how your plan compares to a professional forester!

**Themed guided hike** (1-hour program) Our trails are not only beautiful, but they tell lots of stories, too. Tune in to nature sounds and enjoy some fresh air on a medium length hike. Full of amazing discoveries, our popular hikes are now better than ever, because you can choose the theme! Choose from: habitats, food web, adaptations, natural resources, or ecological change as the feature storyline of the hike.

**Planetarium shows** (1-hour program) Our full dome planetarium offers a variety of kid-friendly shows, each with a follow-up feature led by our Planetarian, Robin. For a list of shows with descriptions, or for questions or customization, please contact Robin by email: [robin@wildernesscenter.org](mailto:robin@wildernesscenter.org).

**Pollinators: Nature's Superheroes**

**Land Makeover: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly**

**Afraid of the Dark: Losing Our Dark Skies**

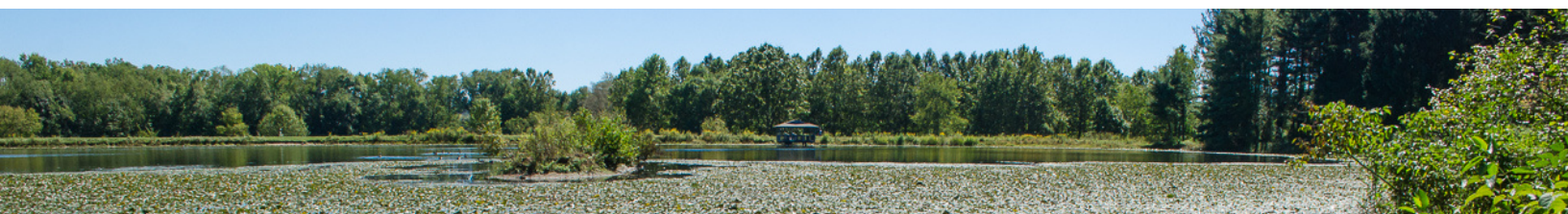
**The Ohio Story: Our Journey From Hunting Mastodons to Writing Our Next Chapter**

**It All Begins With Water**

**A Balancing Act: Using and Protecting Planet Earth**

**Custom Programs - inquire**

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### **Standards Alignment**

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### **Pricing for 4-12 Wilderness Center on-site programs, 2022-2023**

	2 hour programs (grades 4-12) (Includes data updates)	1 hour programs	
		planetarium	hike
Up to 25 students	\$8/students with \$170 minimum	\$130	\$130
26-50 students	\$8/student	\$220	\$200
51-75 students	\$7.5/student	\$310	\$270
76-100 students	\$7/student	\$400	\$340
101-120 students	\$7/student	\$470	\$410
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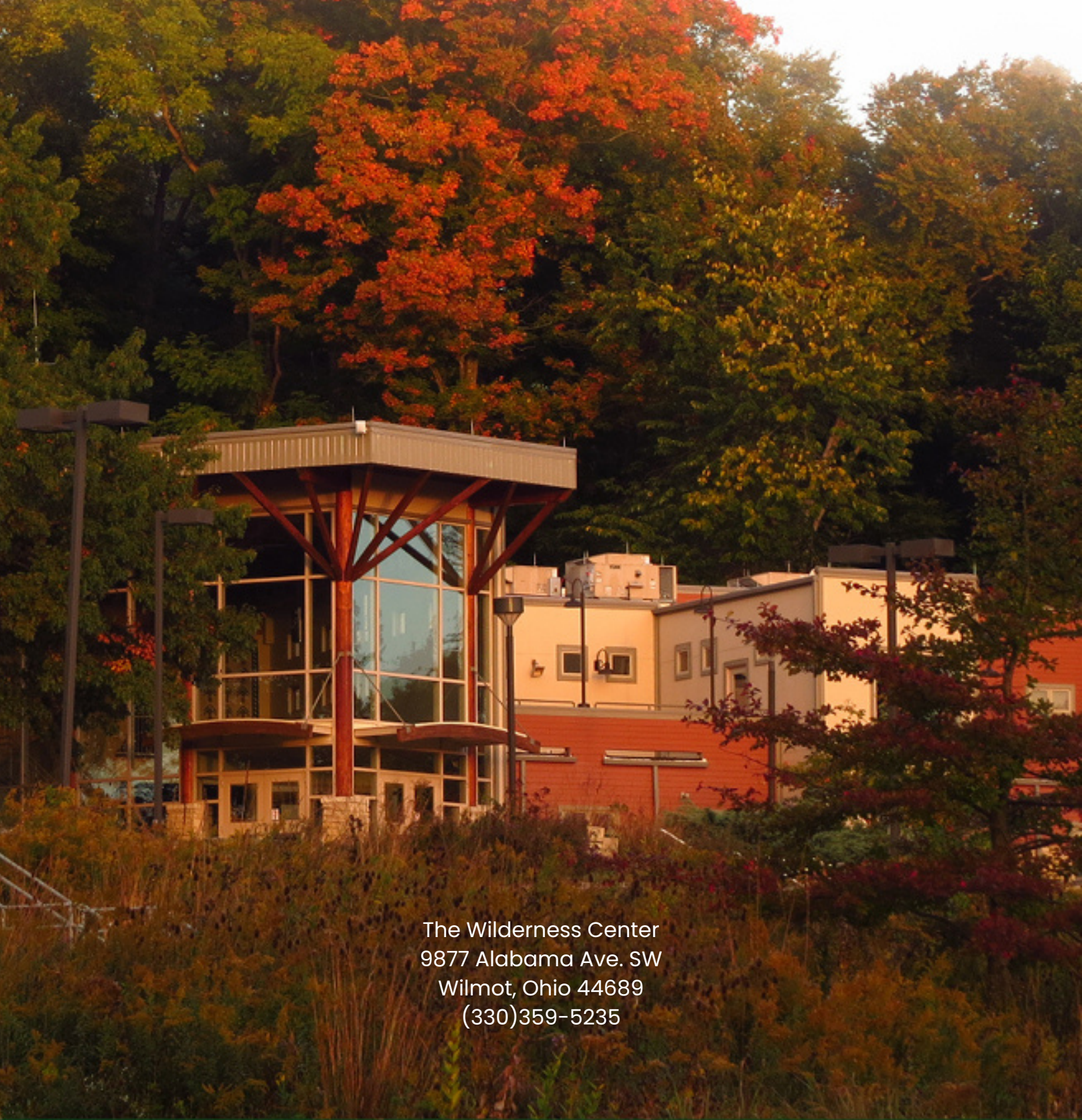


### **Contracts for Schools or Districts**

TWC offers the choice of program contracts to schools or districts. By choosing a contract with TWC, you receive additional benefits and support from TWC educators, including discounted rates. The following table presents the contract options.

Contract Option	Benefits	Cost
Basic School Contract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two 30-minute zoom sessions with a TWC educator (additional sessions available for \$30 surcharge/session)</li> <li>One professional development service for teachers (Nature-based Learning in the Classroom) (additional sessions available for \$150 surcharge/session)</li> <li>Two nature-based digital newsletters, one per semester</li> </ul>	\$2750/400 students \$6.50/student above 400
Basic District Contract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two 30-minute zoom sessions with a TWC educator (additional sessions available for \$30 surcharge/session)</li> <li>One professional development service for teachers (Nature-based Learning in the Classroom) (additional sessions available for \$150 surcharge/session)</li> <li>Two nature-based digital newsletters, one per semester</li> </ul>	\$5450/800 students \$6.50/student above 800
Premium Contract (School or District)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discounted pricing for TWC field trips (\$6.50/student)</li> <li>Two 30-minute zoom sessions with a TWC educator (additional sessions available for \$30 surcharge/session)</li> <li>One professional development service for teachers (Nature-based Learning in the Classroom) (additional sessions available for \$150 surcharge/session)</li> <li>Two nature-based digital newsletters, one per semester</li> </ul>	Contracted for full enrollment at the discounted price of \$6.00/student. This contract is only available for full school or district enrollment, and requires a minimum of 600 students. Basic contracts offer partial enrollment options.





The Wilderness Center  
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*Connecting you with nature*