



Sign up here!



## 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Graders: Join Pickering Creek's Junior Naturalist Club!

Pickering Creek's Junior Naturalist Club is for middle and high schoolers (rising 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders) who have an interest in connecting with nature, learning outdoor skills, and meeting environmental professionals!

Junior Naturalists meet 1-2x/month after school during the school year for professionally-led expeditions at Pickering Creek during which club members learn and practice outdoor skills including nature observation, canoeing, fire-building, wildlife tracking, plant identification, and more. The teen program includes occasional off-site field trips and service-learning opportunities.



In the summer months, Junior Naturalists volunteer for 1-3 weeks as Junior Camp Counselors during Pickering Creek's popular EcoCamp. At camp, Junior Camp Counselors learn leadership, mentoring, and problem-solving skills – all while working with younger children and earning service-learning hours!

### [Sign up now to be a Junior Naturalist!](#)

#### **Junior Naturalists commit to:**

- **Attend** 3-10 after school/weekend club programs during the school year (See 2025-26 schedule on back!)
- **Volunteer** at one Pickering Creek event during the school year (families are welcome!)
- **Serve** as a Junior Camp Counselor for 1-3 weeks during summer of 2026 (including 2 required training dates on May 26 and June 12)

#### **A few notes for parents, guardians and caregivers –**

- We want to plan great experiences for our Junior Naturalists! RSVPs in advance to after-school, weekend and volunteer events help us plan for supplies, snacks, and staffing! In some cases (field trips off site), we will require JNs to sign-up in advance and there will be minimum and maximum participant limits! A modest fee may be required for some off-site field trips. You will receive reminders a week or more before the programs are scheduled.
- We will offer van transportation to and from Pickering Creek for some JN programs this year. Advance sign up for transportation will be required.
- Junior Naturalists earn service-learning hours during Pickering Creek volunteer events and summer EcoCamp. Tracking those hours is the responsibility of your Junior Naturalist!
- Questions and feedback are welcome! Please get in touch – [alloyd@pickeringcreek.org](mailto:alloyd@pickeringcreek.org).

Visit <https://pickeringcreek.org/programs/junior-naturalist-club/> to learn more,  
Or contact Alex Lloyd at [alloyd@pickeringcreek.org](mailto:alloyd@pickeringcreek.org) for more information!



Sign up here!



## PCAC Junior Naturalist Schedule, 2025-26

### **ATTEND After-school/Weekend Programs (3 or more):**

- Friday, September 26, 7:30PM – 10:30PM – **Welcome new members/Welcome back! + black light night hike**
- Tuesday, October 14, 4:00PM – 7:00PM **Fall foliage canoeing on Pickering Creek**
- Saturday, October 18, 7:00AM – 3:00PM - **Weekend field trip to Calvert Cliffs State Park**
- Tuesday, November 18, 4:00PM – 7:00PM – **Orienteering and navigation**
- Tuesday, December 9, 4:00PM – 7:00PM – **Fire-building and outdoor cooking**
- Tuesday, February 3, 4:00PM – 6:00PM – **Tracking wildlife in winter**
- Saturday, February 7, 10:00AM-7:00PM - **Weekend field trip to Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge**
- Friday, March 6, 6:00PM - 8:00PM – **Nocturnal vernal pooling**
- Saturday, April 18, 8:00AM-10:00AM – **Spring migration hike**
- Tuesday, May 5, 4:00PM – 7:00PM – **Diurnal wetlands exploration**



### **VOLUNTEER Programs (1 or more):**

- Saturday, September 20, 9:30AM-11:30AM
- Saturday, October, 18, 9:30AM-11:30AM
- Saturday, November 15, 9:30AM-11:30AM
- Additional opportunities to volunteer for Schools' Out Camp Day programs at Pickering Creek and Meet the Reptiles programs at the Talbot County Free Library will be announced in September!
- Volunteer opportunities for winter and spring 2026 will be announced in January.

### **SERVE as a Junior Camp Counselor for Summer 2026:**

- Participate in 3 or more Junior Naturalist programs during the school year
- Attend two required training dates: Tuesday, May 26, 4:00PM-8:00PM (dinner included) + Friday,\* June 12, 10:00AM-4:00PM \*Date will move to Saturday, June 13 pending snow make up dates on TCPS school calendar
- Sign up for 1-3 weeks of EcoCamp. Sign ups will open in April 2026. Camp weeks for 2026 will be between June 15 and Aug 7.
- Save the date for the end of summer celebration, Wednesday, August 12, 2026!

Visit <https://pickeringcreek.org/programs/junior-naturalist-club/> to learn more,  
Or contact Alex Lloyd at [alloyd@pickeringcreek.org](mailto:alloyd@pickeringcreek.org) for more information!