

Wildlife Warriors 2024 Program Schedule & FAQ

A youth naturalist program presented by Ball State University and Red-tail Land Conservancy

This document includes a calendar with dates and times for monthly Wildlife Warrior meetings and weekend volunteer opportunities. Additionally, it provides information in response to frequently asked questions. If you have further questions, please contact Erica Oliver at elforstater@bsu.edu.

When are the meetings?

Most, but not all, meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 6:30pm-8pm. The first class begins half an hour early to allow time for orientation in addition to the meeting's activities. Please review the calendar carefully. The calendar can be found at the end of this document.

Where are the meetings?

[Ball State University's Nature Lab](#): 2500 West University Avenue, Muncie, IN 47303. You can park anywhere in the parking lot so long as the spot does not say "service vehicles only." The classroom shares an entrance with the Rinard Orchid Greenhouse. There is running water, flushing toilets, and electrical outlets.

[Ball State University's Foundational Science Building \(FSB\)](#): Meetings will be in room 250. Parking is at McKinley Ave Parking Garage. There are signs in the garage that say parking is \$1 an hour. You can ignore those signs. You do *not* need to pay for parking or have a tag on your car. We have an arrangement with BSU parking services during Wildlife Warriors. From the parking garage, walk east across the green commons area towards the largest building. The classroom is on the second floor.

[Munsee Woods](#): 5701 S 475 E Muncie, Indiana 47302. This nature preserve is closed to the public, but the gate will be left open for you to enter. After the gate, there is a ½ mile drive to the parking area. There is no running water at this preserve. There is a composting toilet. Classes will be held in a primitive lodge.

[Westside Park](#): Located on the corner of Tillotson Ave and White River Drive in Muncie. The entrance is across from S. Celia Ave. The meeting location will be at a picnic pavilion adjacent to the White River.

What does the registration fee include?

The registration fee is \$75 per Wildlife Warrior. It is all-inclusive of program materials, including a t-shirt. Scholarships are available. Please reach out to Erica Oliver at elforstater@bsu.edu for more information.

How big is the class?

25-28 children ages 10-15.

Does my child need to bring or wear anything special?

Every meeting will have an outdoor activity. Your child should wear clothes and shoes that allow them to move around comfortably and are okay to get dirty. Always dress for the weather. Some venues do not have heating or air conditioning.

Will there be food and water at each meeting?

Running water is available at the Nature Lab and Foundational Science Building (FSB). Please have your child bring a water bottle to every meeting. The final meeting will have food as part of the year-end party.

Does a parent/guardian need to be present?

A parent/guardian *must* attend the entire first meeting for an orientation and to complete paperwork. At following meetings, a parent/guardian is not required to attend and is welcome to leave. Program leaders have undergone background checks and safety training.

If parents/guardians remain at the meeting, they are welcome to wander the venue or sit away from where the kids are doing activities. We ask that parents/guardians give their children plenty of distance and space. This is to help the Wildlife Warriors become closer as a community of young naturalists who grow by learning from each other.

May I bring my child's siblings to the meeting?

Wildlife Warriors is designed for children ages 10-15. It is preferred that siblings outside of that age range not be brought to the meetings. If they are accompanying, we ask that they stay with their parent/guardian for the duration of the meeting.

Does my child need to attend all of the meetings?

We strongly encourage attending all meetings. Meetings are not filmed to be viewed later. If your child needs to miss a meeting, that is okay. Please let us know in advance. If your child misses three meetings in a row, we may reach out to consult with you.

Does my child need to attend the volunteer events?

The weekend volunteer events are optional. They provide a sense of accomplishment and community for Wildlife Warriors but are not part of regularly scheduled meetings. The volunteer events listed on the Wildlife Warriors 2024 Calendar are open to the public. Parents, siblings, neighbors, and all community members are invited. These events will have a separate registration process.

Who should I talk to if I have questions?

Your primary point of contact is Erica Oliver, Environmental Education Program Coordinator at Ball State University. You can reach her by emailing elforstater@bsu.edu or calling (765) 285-8103.



Wildlife Warriors 2024 Program Schedule

Date	Day	Time	Location	Topic
Feb 14	Wednesday	6pm-8pm	Nature Lab	Surviving the Winter / Parent Orientation
March 13	Wednesday	6:30pm-8pm	FSB – Rm 250	Salamanders
March 16	Saturday	10am-11:30am	TBD	Salamander Field Trip (Weather dependent)
April 10	Wednesday	6:30pm-8pm	Nature Lab	Birds
April 20	Saturday	10am-12pm	McVey Memorial Forest	Volunteering: Earth Day Tree Planting
May 8	Wednesday	6:30pm-8pm	Munsee Woods	Orienteering & Archery
June 12	Wednesday	6:30pm-8pm	TBD	Fireflies
July 10	Wednesday	6:30pm-8pm	Munsee Woods	Trees
Aug 14	Wednesday	6:30pm-8pm	Westside Park	Fish & Mussels
Sep 11	Wednesday	6:30pm-8pm	Nature Lab	Frogs & Toads
Sep 28	Saturday	10am-12pm	Munsee Woods	Volunteering: Habitat Restoration Workday
Oct 16	Wednesday	6:30pm-8pm	Nature Lab	Bats
Oct 20	Sunday	1pm-3pm	Munsee Woods	Volunteering: “Pulling for Bats”
Nov 13	Wednesday	6:30pm-8pm	Nature Lab	Snakes
Dec 11	Wednesday	6:30pm-8pm	Nature Lab	Quiz Bowl / Year-End Party