CUYAHOGA VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

MULTIDAY *Overnight Program Offerings*

Each curriculum stream is designed as a 3-day/2-night immersive experience at the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center (CVEEC). They are multidisciplinary, welcome students from diverse backgrounds, accessible, include social-emotional best practices and career connections. Programs are aligned with Ohio Learning Standards, UN Sustainability Standards, National Park Service Interpretive Themes, and the Social Determinants of Health. Financial assistance is available. Overnight accommodations are in our campus dormitories.

EXPEDITIONS EARTH — GRADES 4-12

How can we use maps to understand, interpret, and tell the story of Earth's landscapes—how they are shaped, how we locate ourselves within them, and how three-dimensional features are represented on a two-dimensional surface?

Students will explore in-depth mapping activities through hands-on experiences throughout CVEEC and CVNP including using stream tables, small group orienteering and making their own topographical and story maps. Students will be immersed in stories of this area and will learn to tell their own story through their experiences at the park. Students take a field trip to the Virginia Kendall Ledges.

HABITAT HEROES — GRADES 4-12

How can we understand what makes an ecosystem healthy—and how can humans protect, restore, and strengthen native biodiversity and climate resilience in the face of environmental change?

Through hands-on activities, students will understand the impacts of climate change and actions they can take to be climate resilient. Contributing to real science throughout the park, students not only will plant native species or remove invasives but will also capture chronolog data that will show changes in the environment over time.

NATURE EXPLORATION — GRADES 4-12

How do the living and nonliving parts of an ecosystem—its energy flow, organisms, biodiversity, and habitats—work together to sustain healthy environments like those found in Cuyahoga Valley National Park?

Students will explore different ecosystems at CVEEC discovering the diversity of organisms and recognizing the interconnectedness of each through the flow of energy. Students participate in student-centered exploration activities to get them thinking like scientists by observing organisms, recording observations and sharing discoveries. Students can take a field trip to either Lock 29 or the Virginia Kendall Ledges.

WATER GUARDIANS — GRADES 4-12

How can we investigate what makes a watershed healthy, what factors influence its condition, and how water quality shapes issues of environmental fairness and justice for communities?

In addition to conducting water testing and analyzing findings at the Cuyahoga River, students will use stream tables and an augmented reality sandbox to better understand the health of our shared watershed and how healthy waterways are an environmental justice issue of the past and present. Students take a field trip to Lock 29 and Everett Covered Bridge for watershed health assessments.

For more information, visit our website: www.conservancyforcvnp.org/environmental-education/

EKO Day Program Offerings

CUYAHOGA VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

Cuyahoga Valley National Park, in partnership with the Conservancy for CVNP, and with the generous support of the National Park Foundation, will be offering in-person Every Kid Outdoors (EKO) programs fall of 2026 and spring of 2027. These programs are offered for free to any elementary to middle school class that has Title 1 status or shows financial need. Programs are offered between 10am-12pm EST, but custom timing is available.

AMONG THE TREES — **GRADES 2-5**

Explore a forest ecosystem to discover which organisms live here. Search for producers, consumers, and decomposers and learn how they are all connected. 2-hour program. Max 60 students. Offered September-November, April-May. This program takes place at the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center.

JOURNEY TO THE RIVER — **GRADES 6-12**

Learn about and test for common pollutants that enter the Cuyahoga River through daily human activities. Students will understand how people impact the water quality of the river and the health of the watershed, and how they can become stewards of the environment. 2-hour program. Max 45 students. Offered September-November, April-May. This program takes place at the Lock 29 Trailhead.

LEARN AT THE LEDGES — **GRADES 4-8**

Hike the Ledges and discover how geologic processes have shaped the land. Look for evidence of how erosion and deposition have changed the land, examine how weathering occurs and explore the rocks that make up the Ledges. 2-hour program. Max 75 students. Offered September-November, April-May. This program takes place at the Ledges Shelter and Trailhead.

LOW BRIDGE EVERYBODY DOWN — **GRADES 3-5**

Explore the Canal Exploration Center to learn about the history and economic importance of the Ohio & Erie Canal. Learn about this time period as you view a historic canal lock, hike on the Towpath Trail and discover primary sources that provide narratives of life during the canal era. 2-hour program. Max 45 students. Offered year-round. This program takes place at the Canal Exploration Center.

PREHISTORIC PRACTICES — **GRADES 3-4**

Discover the culture of prehistoric Native Americans who once inhabited this region. Learn about their daily life by examining artifacts, practicing your hunting skills, grinding corn and sharing Native American stories. 2-hour program. Max 60 students. Offered year-round. This program takes place at the Octagon Shelter or the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center.

SEED'S JOURNEY — **PRE K-1**

Follow the amazing journey of a seed from small beginnings to magnificent tree, then from fallen log into soil. Explore the forest's fascinating variety of bark, leaves, stumps and nuts. 2-hour program. Max 30 students. Offered September-November. This program takes place at the Octagon Shelter or the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center.

WATERSHED WISDOM — **GRADES 4-8**

Learners will identify watersheds in the park by observing physical features and water flow, explore methods for assessing water quality (chemical testing and biological monitoring), and analyze how water quality impacts ecosystems and human activity. This program takes place at the Everett Covered Bridge. 3-hour program. Max 30 students. Offered September-November, April-May.

WHO'S HIDING? — **PRE K-1**

Who lives in these woods? We'll search together for animal homes, tracks, scat, and other signs of forest animals. These clues reveal how animals survive in their habitat. 2-hour program. Max 30 students. Offered March-May. This program takes place at the Octagon Shelter or Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center.

WINTER WILDLIFE — **PRE K-1**

Wondering what animals do in the cold weather? Through science, play, crafts and a story discover how some of our park residents survive the winter. Be prepared to take a short hike to look for signs of animals that may be out and about. 2-hour program. Max 30 students. Offered December-February. This program takes place at the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center.

For more information, visit our website: www.conservancyforcvnp.org/environmental-education/

EKO Virtual Program Offerings

CUYAHOGA VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

Cuyahoga Valley National Park, in partnership with the Conservancy for CVNP, and with the generous support of the National Park Foundation, will be offering Every Kid Outdoors (EKO) programs virtually for 2026-2027. These programs are geared specifically to a PreK-5th grade audience. 4th grade students will receive a free national park pass (or voucher) good through the summer of 2027. All programs typically run for 45 minutes. There is a 5-student minimum per virtual program.

NORTHEAST OHIO GEOLOGY — GRADES 3-5

This program focuses on earth science by exploring the Ledges area of the national park. Students will learn about local landforms and discover how geologic processes including erosion, deposition, and weathering continue to shape northeast Ohio.

OHIO AND ERIE CANAL — GRADES 3-5

This program explores Ohio's canal era. Students will learn about the history and economic importance of the Ohio & Erie Canal. Through primary and secondary sources, they will learn how and why the canal was used and why it eventually became obsolete.

PREHISTORIC PEOPLES — GRADES 3-5

This program explores what archeologists have discovered about the prehistoric peoples of northeast Ohio. Students will learn about how these prehistoric groups met their needs, and how their cultures changed over time.

WETLAND ECOSYSTEMS — GRADES 3-5

This program explores the concept of an ecosystem by focusing on wetlands in the national park. Students will learn about the living and non-living components of wetlands, and how energy passes through local wetland food webs.

WILD ABOUT ANIMALS — PRE K-2

This program introduces students to animals that live in Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Through games, a story, and skulls and pelts students will learn about these animals and discover the adaptations that help them survive in their habitats.

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