

Minnesota Resources for Connecting Children to Nature

Birding Specific Resources

Bird Nerds

The AFSA Bird Nerds is a birding team/club open to all students at the high school! We meet and practice on Thursdays from April to the end of the school year and also compete in an annual competition.

Grades 5 – 12

Thursdays at 11 am

Academy for Sciences & Agriculture

High School 100 Vadnais Blvd Vadnais Heights, MN 55127

<https://www.afsahighschool.com/domain/129>

Burroughs Birding Club

This after-school urban birding club at Burroughs Community School was fledged in spring 2015 by Amy Simso Dean, a longtime birder, volunteer at the Raptor Center, and parent of two kids in the club. It began as a six-week spring program meeting once per week, with 13 enthusiastic fifth-graders and one fourth-grader.

Burroughs Community School

Minneapolis, MN

<https://www.birdwatchingdaily.com/news/birdwatching/fourth-and-fifth-graders-in-minneapolis-enjoy-birdwatching-and-birdwatching-magazine/>

Minnesota Young Birders Club

Meets monthly for birding workshops, demonstrations, hikes and competitions. The club members, ages 13-18, have a diverse span of interests, from football to band, but when they meet up at the Lowry Nature Center, they are birders.

Lowry Nature Center at Carver Park Reserve

Waconia, MN

<https://southwestmetromag.com/lowry-nature-center%E2%80%99s-minnesota-young-birders-club>

General Environmental Education Resources

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Natural Resources Education

Explore different programs, curriculum and resources available to connect kids to nature.

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/education/index.html>

Minnesota Master Naturalist Program

Statewide network of trained volunteers who must complete at least 40 hours of volunteer service annually. There are regional chapters you can contact to find volunteers to help with your project or program.

www.minnesotamasternaturalist.org/

Project Get Outdoors (Project GO)

A Minnesota-based non-profit organization working since 2005 to connect children of color and low-income youth to the outdoors through after-school programming. The organization has free resources and training available to youth-serving organizations. Visit the website to access these resources.

www.mnprojectgo.org

Teach Outdoors! Minnesota

A collaborative effort to encourage educators to bring teaching outdoors. The website provides many resources and “case studies” showing how schools across Minnesota are bringing learning outdoors.

www.teachoutdoorsminnesota.com/

4-H Outdoor Wilderness Leadership and Service Program (OWLS)

This two-year adventure-based program is designed to provide youth in grades 6-11 with intensive hands-on exploration in an area of interest associated with the outdoors.

<https://extension.umn.edu/projects-and-more/4-h-outdoor-wilderness-leadership-and-service-owls-program>

