



Evanston Ecology Center programs and classes focus on environmental education, natural history and conservation. Please register early! Classes fill quickly; please call us at 847/448-8256 for class status.

The Ecology Center is located at 2024 McCormick Blvd. (at Bridge Street).

**EEA member fee** = Evanston Environmental Association member fee.

## Ecology Center Update

The Ecology Center wants to invite you to join us for some special events this fall! A perennial favorite, the **Duck Pluck and Race**, runs from 3-5pm on Sat., Sept. 26, at the Dawes Park Lagoon on the lakefront. You can sponsor a duck for \$10 or a “quack pack” of 3 ducks for \$25.

The proceeds from the Duck Pluck go to the Evanston Environmental Association (EEA), which uses the funds to benefit the “critters” at the Ecology Center. In previous years, the EEA has been able to improve the critters’ habitats and purchase supplies for these mostly-abandoned animals that call the Ecology Center home. These animals “give back” by starring in our educational programs, which include “critter visits” for local schools and scout troops. You can call us to schedule a critter visit at the Ecology Center or at your school. There is a fee for these programs.

**LIVE GREEN, LIVE INSPIRED!** The 2009 Evanston Green Living Festival will show you how to do just that from 9am-3pm on Sat., Oct. 3, at the Ecology Center and adjacent Ladd Arboretum. The EEA, in conjunction with the Ecology Center staff and other City departments, will present another fabulous day of environmental and sustainable options, all designed to inspire you to get “greener” and live more sustainably! You’ll be able to purchase a rain barrel, spend time with holistic health practitioners, visit with over 60 green exhibitors, and listen to keynote speaker



Howard Learner, Executive Director of the Environmental Law and Policy Center. Bring the kids and everyone else in your family to this fun and informative day! We will need volunteers to make the festival successful, so if you can help, please call 847/448-8256 or e-mail us at [ecologycenter@cityofevanston.org](mailto:ecologycenter@cityofevanston.org). For a list of participating vendors and an updated activity schedule, please visit [www.evanstongreenfest.org](http://www.evanstongreenfest.org).

Our great Halloween event, BUG-A-BOO “What’s Buggin’ You?” will be held on Sat., Oct. 24. Eight different sessions are offered, with the first group creeping and crawling through the Arboretum at 4pm. Sign up your princess, superhero or insect for a time slot before they’re all filled! This non-scary event informs and delights people of all ages; details are listed on the facing page.

Autumn brings such lovely colors to the Ladd Arboretum. Plan to walk, jog or ride your bicycle through the ever-changing beauty. Come take a look at the terrific new landscaping on the Ecology Center grounds. While you’re there, stop in and check out a pair of binoculars or a loan box, sign up for a class, or just say “hi” to the staff and the critters. We look forward to seeing you!

*The EcoStaff*



Martha Logan

Ever taken a close look at the mosaic in the Ecology Center entrance? It’s wildly creative!

## Youth Classes

### HOME SCHOOL SCIENCE

The Ecology Center provides an educational, interactive, hands-on experience which will fulfill the science and nature requirements for home-schooled children. Each week focuses on a different scientific discipline and includes age-appropriate activities and mini-experiments. Preregistration required. Questions? Please call 847/448-8256.

Location: Lighthouse Landing, 2603 Sheridan Rd.

Age Level: 6-8 years

Fee: \$100 Length: 8 sessions

Class #	Dates	Day	Time
132120A9	Sept 24-Nov 12	Th	1-2:30pm

## Youth Fishing

### FREE ACCESS TO FISHING

This popular free program, which is sponsored by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, is a great way to introduce children age 5-15 to the “catch and release” process. Equipment, bait and fishing expertise are provided!



Access to Fishing will be held every Saturday morning at Lovelace Park, Gross Point Road at Thayer St. through October. **Note the new time: 10am-noon.** No license is needed for those under age 16. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Questions? Please call 847/448-8256.



# Special Events

## ANNUAL DUCK RACE & PLUCK SEPTEMBER 26

This fund raiser for the Evanston Environmental Association (EEA) is a rubber duck "race" around the Dawes Park lagoon. Ducks travel on waves created by volunteers with paddles. Funds raised from the event go towards the Ecology Center's resident critters. Sponsor one duck for \$10 or a "Quack Pack" of three for \$25. You may take your duckies home after the race! For info. or to reserve a duck, please call 847/448-8256.

Location: Dawes Park, Sheridan Rd. at Church St.  
Day/Date/Time: Sat., Sept. 26, 3-5pm  
Fee: See above for duck sponsorship; free admission

## EVANSTON GREEN LIVING FESTIVAL ON OCTOBER 3



For more information, please see the update on the facing page, call 847/448-8256 or visit the comprehensive new Web site dedicated to the event: [www.evanstongreenfest.org](http://www.evanstongreenfest.org).

## BUG-A-BOO

### WHAT'S BUGGIN' YOU?

Our annual Halloween event will showcase creepy crawlies that are misunderstood. Learn what's cool about these critters and the reasons behind their pesky

behaviors! You'll meet nature's characters (costumed volunteers) outside as you travel around the Ladd Arboretum and then enjoy snacks at the Ecology Center. To avoid overcrowding or long waits, please pre-register for a specific start time. This is a family program, so register all attending family members. This program lasts about one hour. 847/448-8256.

Location: Ecology Center and Ladd Arboretum  
Age Level: 2 years and older

**All sessions will be held on Sat., Oct. 24**

Fee per person: \$4.50 R/NR; \$2.50 EEA member  
Length: 1 session

Class #	Time	Class #	Time
132115A8	4-5pm	132115E8	5:20-6:20pm
132115B8	4:20-5:20pm	132115F8	5:40-6:40pm
132115C8	4:40-5:40pm	132115G8	6-7pm
132115D8	5-6pm	132115H8	6:20-7:20pm

# Parent/Child Ecology Classes

## NATURE PALS - Fall Changes

Learn about the wonders of fall through stories, songs, nature activities and walks along the lakefront. Children who are age two accompanied an adult of their choice will enjoy using autumn as a tool for learning basic skills such as numbers, letters, colors, and more! Dress for the weather; we plan to venture outside each class! 847/448-8256.

Location: Lighthouse Landing, 2603 Sheridan Rd.  
Age Level: Child must be age 2 by the first class  
Fee: \$80 EEA member; \$88 R/\$96 NR  
Length: 8 sessions

Class #	Dates	Day	Time
132123A9	Sept 22-Nov 10	Tu	10-11am
132123B9	Sept 23-Nov 11	W	10-11am

## TINY TREKKERS - Happening Habitats

Ponds, streams, the forest floor and more! You and your preschooler can learn all about what is happening in these different habitats. Each week, we will be exploring a different habitat and meeting the many plants and animals that coexist. We will be discovering these habitats in one of Evanston's most unusual habitats: Lighthouse Landing! We will travel the dunes and nature paths of this wonderful site. Classes

include stories, songs, crafts, games and snack. Child must be age 3 by the first class. No class Oct. 16. 847/448-8256.

Location: Lighthouse Landing, 2603 Sheridan Rd.  
Age Level: 3 years  
Fee: \$118 EEA member; \$128 R/\$136 NR  
Length: 8 sessions

Class #	Dates	Day	Time
132125A9	Sept 18-Nov 13	F	10-11:30am

## SMALL FRY SCIENCE

Introduce your child to the wonderful world of science! You and your child will make amazing discoveries with age-appropriate experiments, activities and projects. Each class will have a different scientific focus, so come to all of them! Pre-registration required. 847/448-8256.

Location: Evanston Ecology Center  
Age Level: Child must be age 4 by the first class  
Fee: \$12 Length: 1 session

Class #	Dates	Day	Time
Topic: Solar System			
132124A9	Sept 23	W	6:30-7:30pm
Topic: Science of Architecture			
132124B9	Oct 21	W	6:30-7:30pm
Topic: Adapt & Survive			
132124C9	Nov 18	W	6:30-7:30pm

## WORMS EAT WHAT?!

Learn how you can recycle your household food waste, which will keep it from ending up in the landfill. Wiggly worms will turn those scraps into wonderful compost to add to your garden or houseplants. We'll touch on some wormy facts by meeting them face to face and get our hands dirty setting up a mini worm bin to take home. Register one adult only (fee is for one bin per family). 847/448-8256.



Location: Evanston Ecology Center  
Age Level: 5 and older  
Fee: \$20 per bin/family Length: 1 session

Class #	Date	Day	Time
132101A9	Nov 5	Th	6:30-8pm

Scholarships are available to qualified Evanston residents for Evanston Ecology Center classes and programs.



# Teen & Adult Classes

In 2009, the Chicago Wilderness alliance adopted its **Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights**. The Bill states that every child should have the opportunity to:

1. Discover wilderness — prairies, dunes, forests, savannas and wetlands
2. Camp under the stars
3. Follow a trail
4. Catch and release fish, frogs and insects
5. Climb a tree
6. Explore nature in neighborhoods and cities
7. Celebrate heritage
8. Plant a flower
9. Play in the mud or a stream
10. Learn to swim

## Leave No Child Inside

Are you looking for ways to help your child understand and enjoy the natural environment? In addition to signing up for some of the classes offered by the Evanston Ecology Center, visit the following Web sites:

[www.laddarboretum.org](http://www.laddarboretum.org)  
or  
[www.kidsoutside.info](http://www.kidsoutside.info)

### HOME LANDSCAPING CLASS

An Evanston Parks Division professional will show you how to prepare your garden for the upcoming winter! The "Bulbs" session on October 7 will show you how to choose and place bulbs to maximize spring color. In "Fall Shutdown" on October 14, you'll learn to mulch and keep your garden healthy for next year's growing season. You'll also get the do's and don'ts of pruning. 847/448-8256.

Location: Evanston Ecology Center  
Age Level: 16 and older  
Fee: \$18 EEA member; \$20 R/NR Length: 1 session

Class #	Dates	Day	Time
133106A9	Oct 7	W	6:30-8pm
133106B9	Oct 14	W	6:30-8pm

### LABEL READING 101

The Evanston Environmental Association (EEA) is joining forces with Healthy Green Goods to help you learn how to avoid "green washing" and misleading health claims. Learn about common labeling misconceptions and practices to have a healthier, more sustainable home. The first week, the class meets at the Ecology Center; the second week, it meets at Healthy Green Goods, 702 Main St., Evanston. To register, please contact Healthy Green Goods at 847/864-9098 or via e-mail at [education@healthygreengoods.com](mailto:education@healthygreengoods.com).

Location: Varies; see description above  
Age Level: 16 and older  
Fee: \$20 Length: 2 sessions

Dates	Day	Time
Oct. 21-28	W	7-8pm

### VOLUNTARY SIMPLICITY

As a continuing part of our Elizabeth Archer Patterson Environmental Awareness Program, the Evanston Environmental Association (EEA) has teamed with Heifer International to create this unique course. This 5-week discussion course addresses the distractions of modern society that keep us from caring for ourselves, our relationships, and our environment. 847/447-8256.

Location: Evanston Ecology Center  
Age Level: 16 and older  
Fee: \$20, which covers the cost of the course book.  
Length: 6 sessions

Class #	Dates	Day	Time
133109A9	Oct 20-Nov 24	Tu	6:30-8pm

### EVERGREEN WREATHS



Have you ever seen a beautiful wreath and thought, "I wonder if I can do that?" Yes, you can — and we'll show you how! Learn the technique for making a beautiful and lasting

evergreen wreath to decorate your home or give as a gift. Price includes supplies; please bring clippers and garden gloves if you have them. 847/448-8256.

Location: Evanston Ecology Center  
Age Level: 16 and older  
Fee: \$25 EEA member; \$30 R/NR Length: 1 session

Class #	Date	Day	Time
133107A9	Dec 2	W	6:30-8pm

### THE GREEN MAMA CAFÉ: BRAIN FOOD AND COMMUNITY FOR PARENTS

The Green Mama Café is sponsored by the Elizabeth Archer Patterson Environmental Awareness Program. Led by the Green Mama, this popular interactive discussion group provides support and community for parents (or expectant parents) pursuing green lifestyles or for those who are just eco-curious. Weekly topics include learning to compost, strategies for getting out in nature with your child, how to make sense of "local" and "organic" labels, and strategies for finding safer plastics. Babies welcome. You're invited to sign up for all 13 sessions (\$35) at the class number listed below or just drop in for a \$5 fee.

If you bring a child age one or older to the café, he/she can participate in an Animal Adventures program supervised by Ecology Center staff for a \$5 fee per session. The Animal Adventures program will be held in the adjacent animal room.

Learn more at [www.TheGreenMama.com](http://www.TheGreenMama.com) or register now by calling the Evanston Ecology Center at 847/448-8256. No class Nov. 23. Space for the Animal Adventures program is limited, so reserve your child's spot early by calling 847/448-8256.

Location: Evanston Ecology Center  
Age Level: Adult; children age 1 and older may attend the Animal Adventures drop-in at the same time  
Fee: \$35 R/NR Length: 13 sessions  
Drop-in fee for either Animal Adventures or café: \$5

Class #	Dates	Day	Time
133123A9	Sept. 14-Dec 14	M	10:30-11:30am



# Family Ecology Programs

## FAMILY CAMPFIRES

Join the Ecology Center staff for fun-filled campfires with autumn themes. Each evening includes stories, songs, and the ever-popular s'mores! Space is limited and preregistration is required. Register by phone or in person at the Ecology Center only. 847/448-8256.

Location: Council Ring behind the Evanston Art Center

Age Level: 2 and older

Fee: \$4 Length: 1 session

Class #	Dates	Days	Time
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Topic: Animals of the Equinox

132116A9	Sept 18	F	7-8pm
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132116B9	Sept 19	Sa	7-8pm
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Topic: Retirement Party for the Leaves

132116C9	Oct 9	F	7-8pm
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132116D9	Oct 10	Sa	7-8pm
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Topic: Nocturnal Animals

132116E9	Nov 6	F	7-8pm
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132116F9	Nov 7	Sa	7-8pm
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## CANOE THE CANAL

The return of fall marks the return of "Canoe the Canal."

Come learn basic canoeing strokes and canoe safety before heading out on a fun trip! Children must be 5 years or older and there is a maximum of 2 adults and 2 children in one canoe. Please register by phone or in person at the Ecology Center only. Please dress for the weather. Program is held unless there is lightning. Bring a water bottle, wear sunscreen and a hat; sunglasses are suggested. 847/448-8256.

Location: Meet at Evanston Ecology Center

Age Level: 5 years through adult

Fee: \$8, child; \$17, EEA member; \$20 R/\$22 NR

Length: 1 session

Class #	Dates	Days	Time
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132118A9	Sept 12	Sa	9:30am-noon
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132118B9	Sept 13	Su	9:30am-noon
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132118C9	Oct 10	Sa	9:30am-noon
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132118D9	Oct 18	Su	9:30am-noon
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*This July, School District #65 middle school students went canoeing on the North Shore Channel. They were participants in SSTS (Students and Science using Technology finding Solutions).*

## New!

### LEAVE NO CHILD INSIDE

The Ecology Center and the Evanston Environmental Association (EEA) are members of the Chicago Wilderness "Leave No Child Inside" coalition. Each month, we'll have a different outdoor activity in a different park. You'll learn about the Child's Outdoor Bill of Rights and enjoy outdoor adventures for the whole family. Events are held rain or shine, so dress for the weather! A child must be accompanied by an adult, so please register both of you. 847/448-8256.

Locations: Sept. 13, Lighthouse Landing, 2603 Sheridan Rd.; Oct. 18, Lovelace Park, Gross Point Rd. at Thayer St.; Nov. 22, Evanston Ecology Center, 2024 McCormick Blvd.

Age Level: 2 and older

Fee: \$5 per person Length: 1 session

Class #	Dates	Day	Time
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Topic: Bugs

132111A9	Sept. 13	Su	1:30-3:30pm
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Topic: Fishing

132111B9	Oct. 18	Su	1:30-3:30pm
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Topic: Trees

132111C9	Nov. 22	Su	1:30-3:30pm
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### STEAK N SHAKE CANOEING

Canoe to the Steak n Shake on Oakton Street! We'll start off at the Ecology Center with safety and canoe instruction, then head south to the Steak n Shake, have lunch, and return to the Ecology Center full and happy! Trip cost does not include meal at Steak n Shake. Children must be 5 years or older and there is a maximum 2 adults and 2 children in one canoe. Please register by phone or in person at the Ecology Center only. Please dress for the weather. Program is held unless there is lightning. Bring a water bottle, wear sunscreen and a hat; sunglasses are suggested. 847/448-8256.

Location: Meet at Evanston Ecology Center

Age Level: 5 years through adult

Fee: \$10, child; \$21, EEA member; \$24 R/\$26 NR

Length: 1 session

Class #	Date	Day	Time
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132117A9	Oct 11	Su	10am-3pm
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## BIRTHDAY PARTIES WITH ECOLOGY THEMES

The Evanston Ecology Center, 2024 McCormick Blvd., offers a 90-minute to 2-hour party program for ages 4 and older (15-child maximum). A staff member leads nature-oriented games and hands-on activities for 45 minutes, then the room is open for treats and activities of your own. You supply decorations and treats.

Topics include: "Animal Party," "Birds of a Feather," "Bugs, Bugs, Bugs," "Rocks, Fossils & Dinosaur Bones," "Space Out," and "Reptile Romp." Two other

topics are limited to partygoers age 8 and up: "Compass Course" and "Nature Rubber Stamping."

Parties are available through Memorial Day from 10am to 4:30pm, Monday through Saturday. Reservations are required at least two weeks ahead. The fee is \$160 for Evanston Environmental Association (EEA) members, \$180 for Evanston residents and \$210 for nonresidents. Questions? Please visit [www.laddarboretum.org](http://www.laddarboretum.org) for details or call 847/448-8256.