



Audubon | Aullwood
Audubon

Programs for Schools and Groups

2025-2026

(updated 10-20-26)



 Audubon

AULLWOOD'S MISSION

Aullwood Audubon enriches lives through education and stewardship of birds and ecosystems.

Aullwood's Legacy

Marie S. Aull gave Aullwood to the Miami Valley and the National Audubon Society in 1957. It was her dream to create a beautiful wildlife sanctuary and one of the Midwest's first nature centers. In 1962 she gave neighboring land to create one of the first educational farms in the country.

Today, Aullwood is a 200-acre sanctuary with six miles of trails winding through prairie, forests, marsh, ponds, and meadows. Aullwood's field trips and special outreach programs fulfill Ohio's Learning Standards. Aullwood's hands-on activities inspire, teach and involve!

Location of Aullwood Audubon

Aullwood has two entrances: The Marie S. Aull Education Center (1000 Aullwood Road, Dayton, OH 45414) and the Charity A. Krueger Farm Discovery Center (9101 Frederick Pike, Dayton, OH 45414). Please note the specific Aullwood entrance for each program in the program description.

Center



Marie S. Aull Education Center Entrance
1000 Aullwood Road
Dayton, OH 45414

Farm



Charity A. Krueger Farm Discovery Center Entrance
9101 Frederick Pike
Dayton, OH 45414

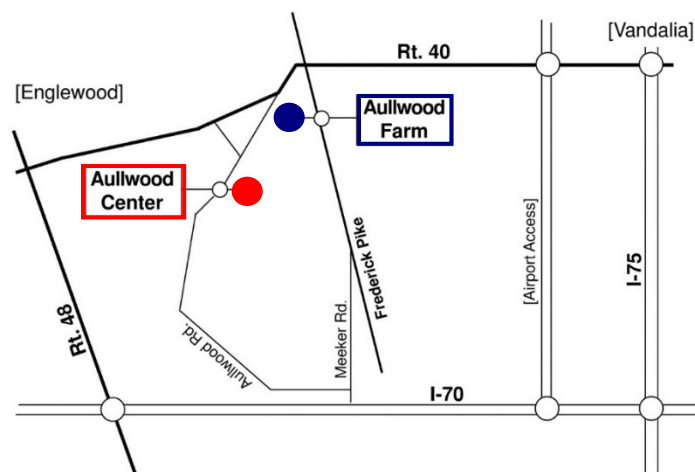


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GUIDED SCHOOL PROGRAM INFORMATION

These programs are designed for school-aged groups from pre-K-12th grade.

Aullwood's professional naturalist educators and specially-trained volunteer naturalists provide learning opportunities that create and teach awareness of the natural and agricultural world and instill conservation stewardship.

Group Size Limit – to provide quality guided programs, Aullwood has a limit of 60 students per program.

Scheduling Your Visit: Please go to our website www.aullwood.org and complete the request form on our Programs page. Information about our programs is also located on our website. **Aullwood's guided program schedule fills quickly, so reserve your program early in the school year.** Whenever possible, teachers or group leaders are encouraged to visit Aullwood before bringing children on field trips. Please contact Aullwood at christina.simmons@audubon.org or call (937) 890-7360 ext 222 to set up your pre-visit. If you have a group with special needs and want to schedule a program, please call us to discuss options.

Dates: Guided school programs are offered September – May unless otherwise noted and take place Tuesday – Friday.

Times: Guided programs can be scheduled between 9:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. If you would like your group to visit Aullwood in the afternoon, you are welcome to take a self-guided visit. Self-Guided school groups must be scheduled in advance in order to receive the group pricing.

The Day of Your Guided Program: Please let us know if you are running more than 15 minutes late by calling Aullwood at (937) 890-7360. When you arrive at Aullwood, a staff member will greet your group and let you know how the day will proceed. When the guided program has concluded, your group may continue exploring Aullwood on your own. Please be respectful of other groups to maintain a high quality of experience for everyone. If you would like to stay at Aullwood after your guided program, please let us know when scheduling your program.

Lunch: If you plan to eat lunch at Aullwood, there are places to picnic on the lawn or on our porches, pavers or decks. Aullwood does not have picnic tables, tables and chairs, or a cafeteria with seating. We recommend that you bring blankets/tarps for your group to sit on. During inclement weather, we cannot guarantee there will be indoor space for you to picnic with your group as our buildings or pavilion may be in use for another program. *You must bring trash bags to take the lunch waste back to your school. If you have students that need accommodation, please contact us at least a week before your visit by calling 937-890-7360.*

Pricing and Payment: There is a minimum fee of \$75 for guided field trip experiences. The specific cost for each program is listed in the program description. Fees are due on the day of the program. If your school requires billing, please bring a purchase order with you. Aullwood takes cash, check, VISA, MasterCard, Discover and American Express.

Cancellations: A cancellation fee of \$25 per scheduled date will be charged to any school cancelling a program. This does not apply to cancellations due to school closings, poor weather, or dangerous road conditions.

Teachers/Adult Chaperones: For the safety of students and the best possible field trip experience, we require at least **one adult to accompany every 10 children.** There is no charge for teachers who accompany their classroom students for a guided tour. For additional adults/chaperones, 1 adult is free for every 10 students; all others beyond this must pay the adult programming fee. If you are a special needs group with individual aides per student, each aide receives free admission.

Weather: Please be aware that all programs are held rain or shine as scheduled. In case of severe weather that prevents outdoor exploration, activities may be modified and/or may be conducted indoors.

GUIDED PROGRAMS

Birds of Prey

Grades: 1st – 12th

Field Trip Length: 1.5 hours

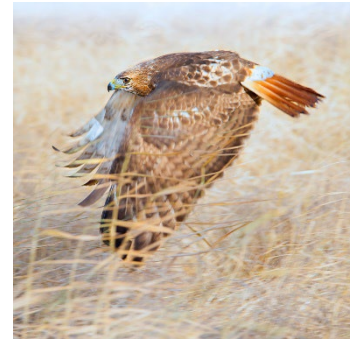
Objectives: To learn about the special adaptations of hawks and owls, their roles in ecosystems and threats to their existence

Program Description: This study of Ohio's hawks and owls teaches students about the characteristics of birds of prey. Discover the adaptations these predators have and the role they play in ecosystems. Additionally, investigate threats to these protected species. This program includes the dissection of one owl pellet per every two students.

Program Location: This program begins and ends at the Nature Center.

Special Note about this Program: Birds of Prey is a primarily an indoor program. Students will go outside to visit our resident raptors.

Cost: \$10/student (includes half an owl pellet), \$10/adult for the program (does not include half an owl pellet). Additional owl pellets are \$3.50/pellet.



Comparing Communities

Grades: 3rd – 12th

Field Trip Length: 2.5 hours

Objectives: To discover a variety of habitats, identifying producers, consumers and decomposers and encounter organisms that live in a variety of communities.

Program Description: Students explore Aullwood's habitats, discovering special organisms that fill essential roles in living systems. Groups search natural communities such as prairie, stream, pond, forest, and meadow, examining cycles and food chains. At the Farm, students explore an agriculture community that supports humans. Emphasis is placed on using senses, observing/gathering information on ecosystems and investigating and drawing conclusions.

Program Location: This program begins at the Nature Center and ends at the Farm.

Cost: \$10/student, \$12/adult



Farmyard Adventures

Grades: PreK – 3rd

Field Trip Length: 1.5 hours

Objectives: To foster an understanding of the significance of farms in regard to food and clothing, along with identifying farm animals and other parts of the farm community; to explore energy cycles of the farm.

Program Description: Learn where food comes from on a journey around our Farm. Groups visit farm animals, explore herb and vegetable gardens and see a century-old barn. Our Farm is home to a variety of rare and endangered livestock breeds which usually includes pigs, cows, goats, chickens and sheep.

Program Location: This program begins and ends at the Farm.

Cost: \$8/student, \$10/adult

GUIDED PROGRAMS

Maple Syrup (Seasonal program only available mid-February through mid-March)

Grades: K- 12th

Field Trip Length: 1.5 hours

Objectives: To learn about the traditional art of sugaring and to explore a woodland habitat in winter.

Program Description: Learn about maple syrup production and explore Aullwood's sugarbush. Discover the difference between historical and modern maple syrup production processes. See buckets hanging on trees, learn winter tree identification and tour the sugarhouse.

Program Location: This program begins and ends at the Farm.

Special Note about this Program: This program is primarily outdoors so proper dress and shoes for weather conditions is important.

Cost: \$8/student, \$10/adult



Nature Explorations

Grades: PreK- 2nd

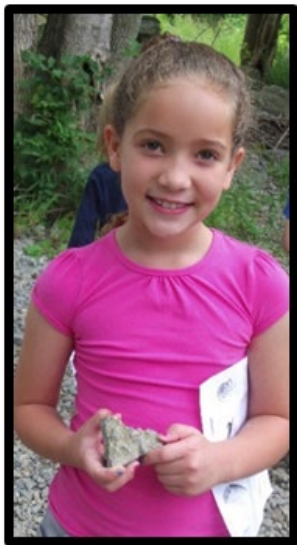
Field Trip Length: 1.5 hours

Objectives: To discover and build awareness of diversity through the use of the senses in a rich, natural environment.

Program Description: Students strengthen their sense of wonder as they explore the outdoors using their senses. Experience nature and encounter plants and animals through touching, smelling, seeing and hearing. Students continue using their senses while visiting the Marie S. Aull Center's Discovery areas and may get an opportunity to touch a snake or box turtle.

Program Location: This program begins and ends at the Nature Center.

Cost: \$8/student, \$10/adult



Geology and Fossils

Grades: 3rd – 12th

Field Trip Length: 2 hours

Objectives: To learn basic geology concepts, discover the geology of southwestern Ohio and collect fossils representative of the Dayton area.

Program Description: Discover Dayton's geologic past through hands-on specimens. Learn how ancient oceans and glaciers shaped the land, study the three rock types, and discover how the bedrock and glacial geology connect with the ecology of the land.

Program Location: This program begins at the Nature Center and ends at the Stillwater River where fossil collecting is encouraged.

Special Note about this Program: Collecting fossils at the Stillwater River is weather dependent.

Cost: \$10/student, \$12/adult

GUIDED PROGRAMS

Teaching of the Trolls

Grades: K - 12th

Field Trip Length: 1.5 hours

Objectives: To use the teaching of the trolls about birds, protecting watersheds, recycling, and reuse to create a piece of art or write a creative poem or story.

Program Description: Aullwood is home to a family of giants! Students will visit at least two installation pieces and discover both sides to their story: the magical fairytale and the history of their creation. The 1-2 mile walk winds through various habitats providing opportunities to see plants and wildlife. Key concepts include birds and bird conservation, sustainability, the importance of watersheds, sustainability, recycling and reuse.

Special Note about this Program: At the time of scheduling this program, please specify whether you prefer sketching with pen or pencil; drawing with crayons or a creative writing option.

Program Location: This program begins and ends at the Nature Center.

Cost: \$8/student, \$10/adult



SELF-GUIDED PROGRAM INFORMATION

During the school year, teachers or group leaders can book a visit to Aullwood and guide their own group for a self-guided or do-it-yourself program. We provide some teaching materials before you come and, upon your arrival, a brief staff introduction.

Scheduling Your Visit: Please go to our website www.aullwood.org and complete the request form on our Programs page. Information about our programs is also located on our website. **Aullwood's program schedule fills quickly, so reserve your program early in the school year.** Whenever possible, teachers or group leaders are encouraged to visit Aullwood before bringing children on field trips. Please contact Aullwood at christina.simmons@audubon.org or call (937) 890-7360 ext. 222 to set up your pre-visit. If you have a group with special needs and want to schedule a program, please call us for options.

Dates: Self-guided programs are offered September – May unless otherwise noted and take place Tuesday – Friday.

Times: Self-Guided school programs can be scheduled anytime between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.; all programs must be completed before 5:00 p.m., when Aullwood closes.

The Day of Your Program: Staff are waiting for your arrival so please let us know if you are running more than 15 minutes late by calling Aullwood at (937) 890-7360. When you arrive at Aullwood, a staff member will greet your group and deliver a brief introduction, then you will lead your own self-guided program. Groups may be permitted to visit both the Center and Farm but must give us advanced notice of their interest in visiting both locations. Please note that during certain times of year self-guided groups may not be able to visit all the classrooms and other locations as they may be occupied by other Aullwood programs.

Lunch: If you plan to eat lunch at Aullwood, there are places to picnic on the lawn or on our porches, pavers or decks. Aullwood does not have picnic tables, tables and chairs, or a cafeteria with seating. We recommend that you bring blankets or tarps for your group to sit on. During inclement weather, we cannot guarantee there will be indoor space for you to picnic with your group as our buildings or pavilion may be in use for another program. *You must bring trash bags to take the lunch waste back to your school. If you have students that need accommodation, please contact us at least a week before your visit by calling 937-890-7360.*

Pricing and Payment: There is a minimum fee of \$50 for a self-guided program. Specific costs for each program are listed in the program description. Fees are due on the day of the program. If your group requires billing, please bring a purchase order.

Cancellations: A cancellation fee of \$25 per scheduled date will be charged to any school cancelling a program. This does not apply to cancellations due to school closings, poor weather or dangerous road conditions.

Teachers/Adult Chaperones: There is no charge for teachers who accompany their classroom students for a self-guided tour. For additional adults/chaperones, 1 adult is free for every 10 students; all others beyond this must pay the adult programming fee. If you are a special needs group with individual aides per student, each aide receives free admission.

Locations: Aullwood has two entrances, the Marie S. Aull Education Center (1000 Aullwood Road, Dayton, OH 45414) and the Charity A. Kruger Farm Discovery Center (9101 Frederick Pike, Dayton, OH 45414). Please note the specific Aullwood entrance for each program in the program description.

SELF-GUIDED PROGRAMS

Self-Guided Farm Visit

Grades: PreK – 12th

Suggested Field Trip Length: 1.5 – 2 hours

Program Description: Tour barns, visit farm animals and explore gardens. Leaders must ensure that children treat all farm animals with respect.

Program Location: This program begins and ends at the Farm.

Cost: \$5/student, \$8/adult (\$50 minimum)



Self-Guided Geology

Grades: 2nd – 12th

Suggested Field Trip Length: 1.5 – 2 hours

Program Description: Walk the Geology Trail and uncover evidence left behind by ancient seas, continental glaciers and rushing water. Visit the fossil beds at the Stillwater River and try to find horned coral, bryozoan, brachiopods or other fossils to take home.

Program Location: This program begins at the Nature Center and ends at the Stillwater River's fossil beds (parking at Aullwood Gardens MetroPark).

Cost: \$5/student, \$8/adult (\$50 minimum)



Self-Guided Nature Center Visit

Grades: PreK – 12th

Suggested Field Trip Length: 1.5 – 2 hours

Program Description: Develop a sense of wonder exploring the many exhibits, classrooms, and habitats at Aullwood. See live animals in the Marie S. Aull Education Center and journey outside on a hike through prairie, woods, streams or ponds to see what nature delights you can find along the trails.

Program Location: This program begins and ends at the Nature Center.

Cost: \$5/student, \$8/adult (\$50 minimum)

SELF-GUIDED PROGRAMS

Self-Guided Troll Stroll – Our most Popular Option!

Grades: PreK– 12th

Suggested Field Trip Length: 1 – 2 hours

Program Description: Visit “The Troll that Hatched an Egg” exhibit by the world-famous sustainability artist Thomas Dambo. This installation is comprised of 3 trolls and time involved in seeing them ranges from 30 minutes to 2 hours, depending on how many pieces you would like to see. This self-guided visit also includes exploring the Marie S. Aull Education Center, the Charity S. Krueger Farm Discovery Center, visiting our live animal ambassadors, and exploring 8 miles of trails.

Program Location: This program can begin and end at either the Nature Center or Farm.

Cost: \$5/student, \$8/adult (\$50 minimum)



PROGRAMS AT YOUR SCHOOL

School Outreach Programs (Available August – May)

Schedule a unique outreach program at your site to encounter the natural world and farm life with artist, musician and Environmental Arts Program Manager, Chris Rowlands!

Artist in Residence: Art Experience

Grades: K – 12th

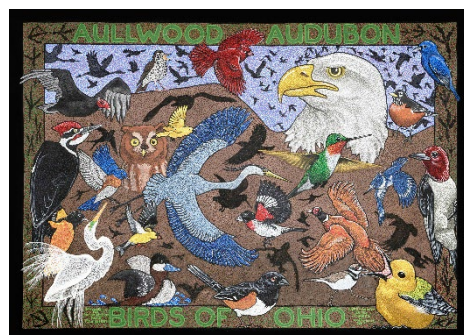
Program Length: One Week

Objectives: To work with a professional artist who teaches students how to create and design an art mural about nature or farming.

Program Description: During the Artist in Residence: Art Program, Chris Rowlands teaches students to use a variety of techniques to create a 6' x 10' acrylic canvas mural, which becomes a permanent exhibit at your school. This program is tailored to meet the school's curriculum needs on any topic.

Program Location: Your School

Cost: For cost and information, contact Chris Rowlands, Environmental Arts Program Manager at (937) 890-7360 ext. 221 or email chris.rowlands@audubon.org.



Artist in Residence: Music Experience

Grades: K – 12th

Program Length: One Week

Objectives: To work with a professional musician who teaches students how to create music and write songs about nature or farming.

Program Description: During the Artist in Residence: Music Program, Chris Rowlands teaches and encourages students to express their creativity and learn through music. Chris provides guidance for students to research, write, record, and perform their songs. At the end of the weeklong residency, a professionally recorded CD is created. After the Artist in Residence: Music Program, Chris and the students share what they've learned during a performance for the entire school. This program is tailored to meet the school's curriculum needs on any topic.

Program Location: Your School

Cost: For cost and information, contact Chris Rowlands, Environmental Arts Program Manager, at (937) 890-7360 ext. 221 or chris.rowlands@audubon.org.



PROGRAMS AT YOUR SCHOOL

Outreach Music Assemblies (Offered Year-Round)

Schedule a music assembly for multiple classes, grades or for the entire school at your site with musician and Environmental Arts Program Manager Chris Rowlands to learn about agriculture and/or the natural world!

Farmin' Fever

Grades: K – 6th

Program Length: 45-60 minutes

Objectives: To learn about farm life and where our food comes from through an educational, entertaining, and interactive musical performance.

Program Description: Chris Rowlands brings the excitement of farm life to students with songs, dances and colorful backdrops, props, and puppets. Chris teaches students how to milk a cow with a chorus of “squeeze, squirt, right from the udder.” The song “Sooe” teaches children about the products hogs provide humans. “Crop Hop” enables children to discover how plants make food. Each song engages the students through simple-to-follow choruses and fun movements. Through this program students become involved in the wonders of farm life that they never knew existed.

Program Location: Your School

Cost: \$300 for a 45-60 minute program and \$0.75 per mile for travel to facilities more than 15 miles from Aullwood. To schedule, contact Chris Rowlands at (937) 890-7360 ext. 221/email chris.rowlands@audubon.org.



It's Wild Out There

Grades: K – 6th

Program Length: 45-60 minutes

Objectives: To learn about forests and wildlife through an educational, entertaining and interactive musical performance.

Program Description: Through music, humor, puppets and audience participation, Chris Rowlands creates a woodland adventure enabling children to encounter a myriad of fascinating wild animals. Children learn about specific adaptations of animals such as the spray of a striped skunk,

the stealth flight of a barred owl, or the absence of feathers on a vulture's head. Children discover the diversity of wildlife and explore a forest food web. With puppet in hand, Chris introduces children to threatened neo-tropical birds – how, when, and why they winter in Latin America and why these birds migrate to Ohio to raise their young.

Program Location: Your School

Cost: \$300 for a 45-60 minute program and \$0.75 per mile for travel to facilities that are more than 15 miles from Aullwood. To schedule, contact Chris Rowlands at (937) 890-7360 ext. 221/email chris.rowlands@audubon.org.

PROGRAMS AT YOUR SCHOOL

Classroom Visits at Your School (Offered September – May)

An Aullwood Environmental Educator will visit your school to present a special program about natural history or farming. Programs are 30 – 45 minutes for grades PreK – K and 45 – 60 minutes for grades 1st – 12th. Program cost is \$75 for a group of up to 35 students. If you have a group of more than 35 students, we recommend your group sign up for an Outreach Assembly – see page 14. There is an additional fee of \$0.75 per mile for travel to facilities that are more than 15 miles from Aullwood. Contact Aullwood at christina.simmons@audubon.org or call (937) 890-7360 ext. 222 for more information or to schedule a classroom visit.

The following are classroom visit program offerings:

Fill the Bill – (Grades 3rd-6th) Discover how birds' beaks or bills are adapted to the kinds of foods they eat with this fun, interactive activity. Students learn about feeding adaptations while rotating through different stations to use a variety of tools that simulate how specific bird bills are used to gather food. This program requires an open space with room for 6 stations or a classroom where desks can be moved to form stations.

Ohio's Wildlife – (Grades PreK – 5th) Learn about animals that can be found in the wild in Ohio. This program includes hands-on specimens such as animal pelts, skulls, feathers, etc. Children also interact with some of Aullwood's ambassador animals such as an Eastern Box turtle or Black Rat snake (non-venomous).

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Aullwood Adventures School Program

Aullwood Adventures involves the entire school for a year of in-depth exploration of natural history and farming. With the assistance of Aullwood's Manager of Public Programs, the school principal and teachers choose two guided field trips and one self-guided trip. *Aullwood Adventures* students who have participated in this program for several years have a greater understanding of science/natural history concepts, an increased awareness of the outdoors and a stronger environmental ethic. Principals should contact Aullwood at (937) 890-7360 ext. 222 or email christina.simmons@audubon.org for more information or to schedule a visit.

Cost of the Aullwood Adventures Full Program is \$18/student and includes:

- Two guided field trips
- One self-guided field trip
- One music school assembly with Aullwood's Outreach Naturalist Chris Rowlands (value of \$300)

Cost of the Abbreviated Aullwood Adventures Program is \$14/student and includes:

- One guided field trip
- One self-guided field trip
- One music school assembly with Aullwood's Outreach Naturalist Chris Rowlands (value of \$300)

Homeschool Programs

Aullwood can be a valuable resource for homeschool groups. Students gain a better understanding of science, natural history and agriculture through unique experiences at Aullwood. All of our guided and self-guided programs for students in PreK through 12th grade are available to homeschool groups during the school day. There is a minimum fee of \$75 for each guided experience.

