



Georgia Urban Ecologists (GUE): Brunswick Cohort 2023-24

This drop-off program for youth in grades 8 through 12 provides opportunities for hands-on field experiences and fun with peers. Perfect for students interested in pursuing careers in science or conservation or those who just enjoy being outside in nature--learn alongside experts in the field and establish a network of environmental professionals while enjoying the outdoors! **Sessions occur one Saturday a month from 10 AM-1 PM**, unless otherwise noted. Brunswick Cohort is open to students in Brantley, Camden, Glynn, and McIntosh counties.

Calendar:

October 14 (rain date October 15) Orientation and Camden County Extension Office

Native Plants of the Georgia Coast

Explore the Altama Wildlife Management Area (WMA) with staff from the UGA Extension Office and biologists from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. We will learn to identify native plants and their pollinators, and how native wildlife are different from invasive species. Students will also get to construct bee boxes and baths to take home.

November 11 (rain date November 12) College of Coastal Georgia

Aquatic Ecology

In this session, we will wade in a shallow pond behind the 4 H Tidelands Nature Center on Jekyll Island, sampling for and learning how to identify invertebrates, and exploring the waters. Waders will be provided thanks to our partners at the Coastal College of Georgia.

December 9 (rain date December 10) Florabundance Gardens

Native Plants

Florabundance Gardens cultivates a rich variety of native plants that support a continuous array of birds and other wildlife. The property includes multiple habitats including marsh, maritime forests, ditches and fields. In this session, we'll explore the nursery while learning how native plants support wildlife. During our walk, we'll gather materials to make seasonal wreaths for students to take home.

January 13 (rain date January 14) 100 Miles

Barrier Island Dynamics

On this field trip to St. Simons Island, students will learn about the influences that create and shape the islands of the Georgia coast. We will spend the trip on the beach exploring and discussing forces and how local species adapt to this environment.

February 10 (rain date February 11) Manomet

Georgia Bight Shorebird Conservation Initiative

The Georgia Bight comprises important shorebird habitat for resident and migratory species that depend on this southeastern region of the Atlantic Coast. Depending on local conditions, this field trip will be a half day of birding exploration- either on the beach or at a local Wildlife Management Area. Binoculars and field guides will be provided, but students should plan to dress for outdoor conditions including heat/wind/bugs. We will see shorebirds and other wetland species, and discuss how education and outreach are important tools for shorebird conservation.

March 9 (rain date March 10) Altamaha Riverkeeper w/ GA Tidewater Outfitters

Altamaha River Nature Tour

Cruise along the waterways of Georgia's second oldest city to explore the Altamaha River's vast biodiversity. After a two-hour boat tour along the river, students will conduct water quality testing of the river using Adopt-a-Stream methods.

April 13 (rain date April 14) UGA Marine Extension Brunswick Station

Sustainable Fisheries

The UGA Brunswick Station conducts research and implements innovative solutions that protect marine resources and sustain local livelihoods. Nationally known for its work with commercial fishermen and Turtle Exclusion Devices, the Brunswick Station also has renowned programs in fisheries, seafood and sustainable coastal development. Students will be led in an exploration of the facility and participate in a sustainability initiative.

May 11 (rain date May 12) Keep Golden Isles Beautiful

Marsh Clean-up and Picnic at Overlook Park

Discover the connection between urban landscapes and salt marshes while fighting litter and contributing to local conservation through a park clean-up. We'll also celebrate the end of a great year with a picnic!

Thank you to our partners who make this program possible:

University of Georgia Camden County Extension Office and Marine Extension, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal College of Georgia, 100 Miles, Georgia Tidewater Outfitters, Altamaha Riverkeeper, Manomet, and Keep Golden Isles Beautiful

