



URBAN
ECOLOGY CENTER

NEWS FROM THE

NATUREHOOD

SEE HOW YOU'RE CONNECTING PEOPLE IN CITIES TO NATURE AND EACH OTHER | WINTER 2019



***YOU turned
“I’ve never” into
“Follow me!”***

How your support engaged Akai
who inspired her mom Starr



*Akai smells the flowers
at Washington Park.*

ENJOYING THE WILD

**YOU PROVIDE A CONNECTION TO THE NATURAL
WORLD THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME**

Starr, mother to 8 year old Akai, remembers how she felt before her first camping experience with her daughter's UEC Young Scientist Club: "I was actually terrified and trying to talk myself out of it! But I enjoyed it a lot. I don't think we would have ever gone camping on our own—it was a really good experience."

Camping is just one of many new outdoor experiences Akai has enjoyed. She was first introduced to the Urban Ecology Center through the Neighborhood Environmental Education Project with her school Neeskara Elementary. When Starr realized they lived just a few blocks from UEC, she brought Akai over right away and signed her up for the Young Scientist Club after-school program.

Akai has been a regular ever since. "I like it here. I have a lot of fun and get to learn how to fish, feed the animals, how to have adventures and how to enjoy the wild. I thought the places we were going on field trips were like another world, but it's just other parts of Milwaukee!"

Starr sees the positive impact the UEC has on her daughter, and has even learned how to fish, camp and

canoe at the UEC herself! Sometimes she sits in when the kids cook things grown in the gardens at the Washington Park branch and then tries the recipes at home. Starr sees long-term benefits from spending time at the UEC, too:

"If [Akai] doesn't get to experience the outdoors here, how will she ever get into it and appreciate it? She goes fishing here, and that might become a hobby when she's older, and she might continue to go camping. Who wouldn't want their child to experience that?"

As for Akai, she sees herself as a leader for other friends who might come to Washington Park branch UEC programs. She says she knows what she will tell them, "Come follow me, I know what to do now!" ❄️

Will you help others like Starr and Akai turn "I've never" into "Follow me!"?

Give today to connect more kids to the joy of urban nature!

VOLUNTEERS CONNECT UEC TO THE COMMUNITY

LIDIA SHARES HER TALENTS & MAKES AN IMPACT

When Lidia Villazaez began her new role as the Community Outreach Manager at Layton Boulevard West Neighbors, the Menomonee Valley Branch UEC was one of the first partners she met with.

“I was so intrigued by the unique work the branch was doing and recognized the value it added to the neighborhood. I love getting the opportunity to be a part of the Menomonee Valley Advisory Committee and helping bring my knowledge from working directly with neighbors to the table.”



In addition to her advisory role, Lidia also volunteers in the animal room on Saturdays for live animal feedings. “I really believe in the work they do to connect people to nature and find it fulfilling to get the chance to help them do that work by teaching people more about native Milwaukee animals.”

The role that Lidia, and each of the members of our three Branch Advisory Committees, fulfills is critical to meeting the needs of our community. Whether it be at the Menomonee Valley, Washington Park or Riverside Park location, committee members help support the work of each branch by serving as ambassadors to the community, offering insight on programming and events, and taking on special projects. The Urban Ecology Center only comes to life with the help of great volunteers!

Thank you Lidia and the members of the Advisory Committees for all you do to help us connect people in cities to nature and each other! ❄️

Interested in being a volunteer advisor to a UEC branch?

Menomonee Valley, Washington Park and Riverside Park UEC's are currently seeking advisory committee volunteers who live or work in our neighborhoods and reflect the diversity of our communities. Contact your local branch to speak with the Branch Manager!



CARE FOR THE PLANET BEGINS WITH A LOVE OF NATURE.

YOU CAN HELP MAKE GIVING TUESDAY ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, VERY SPECIAL!

Every \$42 you give helps a young person like Akai enjoy a Young Scientist Club experience. Whether they are finding caterpillars, learning to fish, or going on an outdoor adventure, you can give the foundational experiences that build our next generation of environmental stewards.

Donate here

URBANECOLOGYCENTER.ORG/GIVINGTUESDAY

Storytime and marshmallow roasting in the Riverside Park tipi is a great way to spend a winter day.

PROGRAM PREVIEW

VIEW OUR FULL CALENDAR ONLINE

CANDLELIGHT WALK *for kids & adults*

December 14 | 4:30 - 9 p.m. | Riverside Park | Register online

Celebrate the Winter Solstice with a guided, candlelit walk through Riverside Park! Enjoy seasonal poetry along the way. Then, warm up inside by the fire with cider, snacks and music!

WINTERFEST *at Washington Park*

January 25 | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Washington Park | Free!

Join us for arts, crafts, homemade pie and guided nature walks. If we have snow, we'll skate on the lagoon and go sledding!

URBAN CANDLELIGHT HIKE

February 22 | 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Menomonee Valley

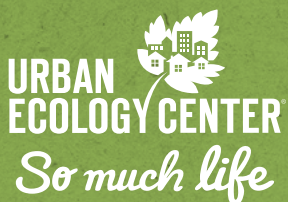
All ages | Register online

Enjoy warm refreshments and hike among candles that transform Three Bridges Park into a beautiful urban oasis.



If you have named the UEC in your will or trust, thank you!

If you are considering your own gift for the future, please connect with Jen Hense at (414) 964-8505 or jhense@urbanecologycenter.org



Riverside Park

1500 E. Park Place
Milwaukee, WI 53211
(414) 964-8505

Washington Park

1859 N. 40th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53208
(414) 344-5460

Menomonee Valley

3700 W. Pierce Street
Milwaukee, WI 53215
(414) 431-2940

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