



NEWSLETTER

Exciting Return to Programming



We are thrilled to return to programming for the Spring 2024 semester! Classrooms are buzzing with excitement as GGO's mentors introduce students to the wonders of nature. Some highlights from the first few weeks of programming include:

- 4th grade yogis learned basic yoga poses (pictured left)
- 5th grade sustainable artists crafted recycled paper
- 6th grade chefs prepared garden fresh salads
- 7th grade engineers developed air filters to learn about tracking air pollution
- 8th grade climatologists explored the impacts of melting permafrost

Students, teachers, and mentors alike are having a blast and learning so much about each other and the natural world! Stay tuned for more programming highlights as the semester progresses.

Recent Adventures



Making maple syrup at Shaw Nature Reserve (picture left): 4th and 5th grade GGO students from Froebel Elementary School visited Shaw Nature Reserve to learn about forest ecology and maple syrup production. GGO students tapped for maple syrup, played games to learn about the water cycle, and learned about tree identification.

Exploring the stars at Adler Planetarium: Students from Drake Elementary School in Chicago explored the different planets in our solar system through hands-on activities, see a star show viewing the night sky over Chicago, and

learn about space exploration!

Behind the scenes at the Saint Louis Zoo 7th and 8th grade GGO students from Long International Middle School visited the Saint Louis Zoo to learn about animal nutrition, care, and biology. The students got a behind the scenes look of the St. Louis Zoo's River's Edge exhibit and nutrition center. Thank you to Rory James and the whole team at the Zoo for this amazing experience!



Thank You to Our 2023 Partners

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all of our amazing partners who supported GGO in the 2023 calendar year, especially to all of our individual supporters like you! To all of our individual and institutional supporters, we are deeply grateful for your support and can't wait to continue our partnerships! Listed below are a selection of the foundations, corporations, and universities that have partnered with GGO in the past year:

- AmeriCorps VISTA
- AT&T, Inc.
- Bellwether Foundation
- Blues for Kids Foundation
- Boeing ECF St. Louis
- Carney's Kids Foundation
- Cardinals Care
- Chicago Public Schools
- Dr. Scholl Foundation
- Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation
- Missouri Parks Association
- Nature, Culture, and Human Health Network (NCH2)
- National Recreation Foundation (NRF)
- Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI)
- University of Chicago
- University of Illinois-Chicago
- University of Missouri-St. Louis
- USDA Forest Service
- Saigh Foundation
- Saint Louis University
- St. Louis Public Schools
- Trio Foundation of St. Louis

- Washington University in St. Louis

Mentor of the Month

Meet Ella!



Ella is a junior at Saint Louis University studying in the physical therapy program, and she started volunteering with GGO in the fall of 2022. She loves just about anything involving nature, but especially hiking and backpacking. One of her favorite GGO memories was teaching a fourth-grade class about plants and their "superpower", photosynthesis. Ella recalls that "The students created their own

"super plant", deciding where it grew, types of leaves and flowers, etc., and then chose one group member to be the "model" (me, in this case). I got covered head to toe in pompoms, pipe cleaners, and tissue paper in order to bring their vision to life. Afterward, they told me they had a lot of fun with the activity, and that I looked *really* funny modeling their plant in front of the class." We are thrilled to have someone as committed and passionate as Ella as a mentor, and we greatly look forward to continuing to work with her!

Looking Ahead

Challenge: We would like to extend a challenge to all of our readers to sign up at least one of your friends or family members for our newsletter! Simply share the following link with anyone you think might be interested in receiving updates about GGO's progress: [GGO Newsletter Sign-Up](#)

Donate: Finally, we are off to a great start with programming this year, and if you would like to help keep us going on our mission to get more kids outside and learning about the environment, we kindly ask that you consider donating using the following link: [Donate to GGO](#)

Thank You for Your Support!



GGO Newsletter | February 2024 | gatewayoutdoors.org

