

# Lab Notes

January 2026



## Winter at the Lab

Seventh grade field trips started at the end of November and ran through mid-January. Students enjoyed being outside - despite the colder temperatures - and were excited to study ecology. They visited various learning stations set up at around the property, so they had a bit of freedom to explore on their own. Third grade and high school visits began mid-January, and fifth grade overnights will resume at the end of February.



**Be on the lookout** for APS Outdoor Lab staff at upcoming Science Nights at Long Branch, Science Focus, and Discovery elementary schools. We'd love to see you!

## Recruiting Summer Camp Counselors

Plans for three weeks of 2026 Outdoor Lab Summer Camp are well under way. Camp for middle schoolers (current grade 6-8) will be the weeks of July 6th and 13th, and for elementary students (current grade 4-5) the week of July 20th. Camp registration opens March 6 [here](#). Counselors (18+) and counselors-in-training (grades 9-12) are needed for each session and applications are available on the APS website [here](#). Applications are due by March 27.



## Master Planning Update

We are excited to share that we received four proposals to develop a site master plan for the enlarged Lab property and a concept design for a facility to replace the Cottage. The AOE board will review the proposals with a goal of selecting a firm by the end of February. Stay tuned for more updates as we embark on this work!

## Meet Claire McArdle 2025-26 Student Board member



Claire is a senior at Yorktown High School. She is on the track and field and swim teams, sings in choir, and is an APS Fine Arts Apprentice. She is committed to the Outdoor Lab experience because she believes it is extremely valuable for elementary school kids to learn about nature and the importance of conservation.

Claire first visited the Outdoor Lab with her 5th grade class for their overnight trip. Immediately after that trip, she signed up for Outdoor Lab summer camp. She has always loved hiking, camping, and participating in hands-on learning experiences.

One of the things she loves most about the Outdoor Lab is how it helps grow a love for nature in kids who wouldn't initially identify as "outdoorsy." If you visit, she recommends saying hello to the Lab's snapping turtle, Munch!

**Apply to be our next Student Board Member!** Applications for rising high school juniors or seniors are open until March 31. Visit our website to [learn more and apply](#) today.

## Thank You

A sincere thank you to all those who made gifts in the AOEA in 2025.  
You make this work possible and we're incredibly grateful for your support.

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## Give With Confidence



Arlington Outdoor Education Association  
[www.outdoorlab.org](http://www.outdoorlab.org)



Arlington Outdoor Education Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that owns and conserves the 311-acre property and facilities of the Outdoor Lab. Our long standing partnership with Arlington Public Schools provides teachers, curriculum and transportation. You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website, made a gift or signed up for one of our events.

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