



# ECOS Nature Club Fall 2023

## Parent Survey Summary

Our Saturday ECOS Nature Club is for 4th-7th graders and includes hikes, bird watching, identification of native trees and plants, nature art projects, music, and much more, all within a framework that incorporates SEL (Social and Emotional Learning). Our Nature Club is held during the fall and spring at the Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center, and unless it is raining, we are outside!

We are thrilled that nearly 70% of our families took the time to share their feedback, which helps us to continually improve our program.

94%

reported their child experienced positive connections with other kids, as well as adult program facilitators.

87%

reported their child was happier after participating in the program.

75%

reported their child is more comfortable being outside after participating in the program.

*“The ECOS Nature Club program has been very effective in my child’s character growth, confidence in meeting new people, and openness to new experiences.”*

**100%** of parents reported their child enjoyed spending time in nature and that their participation in ECOS Nature Club has increased their interest in nature.

*“ECOS Nature Club has heightened her awareness of nature and helped her to be willing to try new things.”*

### At Least 50% Reported:

- Their child learned new coping or stress management skills.
- Their child now asks to go to parks or natural areas.
- Their child now spends more time outside.
- Their child talks about or engages in new behaviors, such as recycling, noticing plants and animals, and picking up litter.

*“Our child has made new friends, and been so engaged in nature activities more than usual as a result of ECOS Nature Club. She looks forward to it each week!”*

### Parent Testimony

*“From day one, this program exceeded all of my expectations. The staff consistently greeted my son with hearty smiles and led the program with knowledge and enthusiasm that was contagious for the children. I knew that each week he would be off screens, learning and running around in nature on Saturday mornings. It was not lost on me that his brain was being hardwired to appreciate nature exploration, regardless of the weather, and that this would be something he’d carry with him as an adult. In full sincerity, thank you for providing such a safe, caring environment. So appreciated!”*

