

Eco-STEM Leaders Program: 2025-2026 Timeline

Here is the detailed schedule for the upcoming Eco-STEM Leaders program.

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

- Applications due.

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

- Provide applicants with notification of their approval or denial by email to students no later than this date.

Thursday, January 22, 2026 – 6-7:30pm

- Review expectations, syllabus, and timeline for independent research projects.
- **Independent Research Project:** Research topic activity to help selection of topic – **Come with three topic ideas that are of personal interest to you**
- A Discussion of the Clean-Up Event: Strategies for Attendance Growth and Day-of Facilitation

Sunday, February 8, 2026 – 12-5pm

- **Clean-Up Event:** Facilitate and work on the Sturgeon City site and surrounding wetlands and protected areas.
- **Independent Research Project:** Submit research topic for approval at the conclusion of the clean-up.

Friday, February 13, 2026 – *You will be notified of the approval of your research topic no later than this date by email to the student.*

Thursday, February 19, 2026 – 6-7:30pm

- **Independent Research Project:** Our session will include project leaders and selected STEM mentors assisting with the project design. This will include

discussing the timeframe for the work, the specific data that needs to be collected, and any potential safety concerns that must be addressed. We'll collaborate closely with students to finalize a list of necessary equipment and supplies for their research projects, which Sturgeon City will purchase (within reason).

- Start discussion of Earth Day Celebration at Sturgeon City station plans that students will lead and staff. *Student communication outside of program meetings may be needed.*
- Schedule 15-minute virtual individual check-in for March 4 or 5.

March 4-5, 2026 – 15-minute Virtual Individual Check-in: Review completed work, edit any changes, and review next steps of their project

Thursday, March 19, 2026 – 6-7:30pm

- Listen to a STEM professional speaker.
- Finalize Earth Day Celebration at Sturgeon City station plans and select citizen science group project for May 17
- **Independent Research Project:** Work with program leaders to review collected data for project.
- Schedule 15-minute virtual individual check-in for April 29 or 30.

Saturday, April 18, 2026 – 8am-4pm

- **Earth Day Celebration at Sturgeon City:** Staff stations at Earth Day Celebration at Sturgeon City and assist with setting up and cleaning up.

April 29-30, 2026 – 15-minute Virtual Individual Check-in: Review completed work, edit any changes, and review next steps of their project

Thursday, May 14, 2026 – 6-7:30pm

- Listen to a STEM professional speaker.
- Finalize citizen science plans.

- **Independent Research Project:** Work with program leaders to review project progress. Discuss manners and methods to display data for the public presentation.

Sunday, May 17, 2026 – 12-4pm

- **Citizen Science Group Project**

Monday, June 15, 2026 - Thursday, June 18, 2026 - 9am-3pm (lunch and snacks will be provided to students attending)

- Listen to STEM professional speakers.
- Participate in environmental science discussion and labs.
- Attend a **Resume Builder Workshop** in house.
- **Independent Research Project:** Finalize independent projects, data collection, and conclusions. Finalize presentation displays and practice presentations.

Friday, June 19, 2026 - 9am-12pm (light refreshments during public event)

- **Presentation Event:**
 - Present your independent research project to the public from 10:30am to 12pm.