



Imago News

Summer 2018

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Forts, Worms, and Dirts

In the past six months, Imago has offered more nature experiences for youth than ever before. Through school partnerships, group programs, summer camps, and afterschool clubs, Imago has served youth from all over the city and worked closely with our community partners to create exciting opportunities to explore nature close students' own neighborhoods.

SUMMER CAMPS

This summer we led over **400 hours of summer camp** for youth ages 4 to 14 years old. Camps ranged from half-day camps for 4 to 6 years olds, to our overnight adventure camps for pre-teens and teens. Campers investigated owl pellets, created their own wooden toys, played camouflage tag, went spelunking, caught tadpoles, and built forts... lots and lots of forts.

To best support our underserved community members, Imago offered partnership camps for the first time. Campers from the Academy of World Languages and [Community Matters](#) each participated in their own week of Imago nature camp. For most of these campers this was their first nature camp experience. Imago also awarded over **\$7,000 in scholarships** to families in need, allowing their children to participate in summer camps.

BRANCHING OUT SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Branching Out is Imago's comprehensive nature connection program. The program involves partnering with local schools to lead outdoor education lessons right on site at area schools. The students participate in lessons that closely tie to classroom curriculum while exploring nature right outside their classroom doors. Our signature partnership in this program is Pleasant Ridge Montessori (PRM). In the last six months alone, **over 400 students at PRM** have collectively spent **2,600 hours outdoors**. Our Branching Out students plant seeds, water and tend garden beds, find grasshoppers, study birds, and even make salsa from their garden harvests!

Our worm lesson is an excellent example of the power of a Branching Out lesson. Not only do our students learn about the mighty worm and its soil building and decomposing powers, worms are often the first critter that a young person can reliably find and the first one that takes them from "EEEEK" to "WOW". Imago does a lot to help young people experience the beauty and wonder of nature. Worms (and other cool critters) are one of our nature ambassadors.

Imago is actively working to add new school partners and we hope to be able to announce some additional good news very soon!



AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

Outdoor Explorers is our new after school club program that blends the school-based work of the Branching Out program with the exploration activities of a summer camp. Imago has been fortunate to work with three great partners for our afterschool programs. Our partners provide the space and help recruit and organize participants, and Imago leads the Outdoor Explorers in fun and meaningful nature experiences..

Imago has already provided **400 hours of after-school experiences in the Outdoor Explorers** program this year at three partner schools and agencies.

WHY THIS WORK MATTERS

The time that youth spend in nature has been decreasing over the past few generations. [Less than half of young teens play outside](#) (48%) as compared to 87% just two generations ago. American youth are [spending the equivalent of a full-time job in front of a screen](#). These sobering trends deprive young people of the positive benefits time in nature provides. [Nature is an “under-recognized healer”](#) shown to provide a myriad of physical, mental, and emotional health benefits ranging from decreased depression and obesity to an increase in attention and creativity.



[Moreover, time in nature is a critical factor \(and maybe the most critical factor\) in raising environmental citizens.](#) Time spent camping, building forts, and flipping over rocks all lead to building a positive relationship with nature. It is these relationships formed as children that lead to environmentally conscious decisions later in life.

Imago’s regular experiences in nearby nature are a key part of reversing these trends and finding ways to connect positively with nature. We are incredibly grateful to all of the support that we receive for our youth programs and we invite you to join us as we move forward. Consider [becoming a volunteer](#) or [making a donation](#). Your support brings more nature into the lives of young people in urban areas.

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Share your Nature Stories

In honor of Imago’s 40th anniversary, we are collecting nature stories and inspirations!

Here at Imago, we enjoy our time in nature – and would love to hear your special moments with nature, too. Short stories, poems, and artwork are all gladly received. Tell us about a special moment you have had in nature.

To share your story simply visit our website www.imagoearth.org/share or send it to us at office@imagoearth.org. Thank you! We look forward to your stories!

Music in the Woods!

Imago's End of Summer Celebration and biggest and best event of the year is back for our 17th year!

Use the promo code "newsletter" to save 10% on tickets when you order tickets online

www.imagoearth.org/mitw



Fall and Winter Upcoming Events

Check out our upcoming events in 2018. To see the full list of events, learn more about an event, or to register, visit events webpage (imagoearth.org/events) or contact us at (513) 921-5124 or office@imagoearth.org

September

15 - 17th Annual Music in the Woods

30 - Over the Rhine Upcycling Urban Hike

October

5 - First Friday Conversation - Connecting to Nature

30 - Feast of Mourning

November

16 - Nature as a Gate to the Soul

23 - Plaid Friday Urban Hike

December

8 - Upcycled Holidays

21 - Winter Solstice Celebration

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