

YOUNG EXPLORERS CLUB

Sponsored by the Morgan County Audubon Society, a Chapter of the Illinois Audubon Society, and the Jacksonville Public Library

The *Young Explorers Club (YEC)* is back for its *FIFTH* season! Students of all ages are welcome to join and participate in YEC programs and all activities are absolutely *free* and pre-registration is not required. YEC meets from *11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.* one Saturday a month (December-March). Students are invited to attend all or some of the YEC meetings.

December 17, 2022: *I Wonder... About Birds.* Have YOU ever wondered how birds sleep? Or, how does a woodpecker pound a tree without getting a headache? This program will answer these questions and provide many more facts about our amazing avian friends. **Location: Jacksonville Public Library, 201 West College Avenue, in the activity room.**

January 21, 2023: (11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.): *Skulls and Bones.* Can YOU tell the difference between a raccoon's skull and an opossum's skull? Do you know how many teeth a skunk has? Professor Bryan Arnold and his students at Illinois College will introduce students to the college's vertebrate skull collection. Students will learn to identify the skulls of various mammals and to appreciate the anatomical differences between species. **Location: Parker Science Center (Room 141) on the Illinois College Campus.**

February 25, 2023: *Astronomy 101.* Come learn about the solar system, the Milky Way, black holes and much more while sitting in the Jacksonville High School planetarium! This promises to be an out of this world experience. **Location: JHS, 1211 N. Diamond Street.**

March 18, 2023: *Owls.* This program will explore the secret lives of owls and why they are the masters of the night. By dissecting owl pellets, students will discover what prey these super birds hunt at night. **Location: Jacksonville Public Library, 201 West College Avenue, in the activity room.**

Thursday, April 6: (6:00 p.m.): *Adventures in Stargazing.* Using inexpensive and simple tools, from computer software to binoculars, Professor Bernd Estabrook will demonstrate how students can explore the night sky. **Location: Western Illinois Youth Camp, 2244 4-H Club Ln, Jacksonville.** RAIN DATE: April 13.

To learn more, please contact Allen Yow at (217) 243-8457.

