

## Meet a Master Naturalist: Aaliyah Ross



Aaliyah especially appreciated that the field experiences in the Master Naturalist program are all local. Many of the activities are based at the Phinizy Center park, and there are excursions to other locations of interest within the CSRA. Aaliyah was especially inspired by the trip to Heggie's Rock in Appling, where one of the expert guides used his extensive knowledge of geology to explain exactly what was happening with the rock formations under her feet.



Aaliyah describes herself as a curious person who enjoys learning things. One of the best things about the Master Naturalist program is that it creates a community with other local people with varied interests, all focused on the natural world around us.

Aaliyah Ross is a staff member at the Phinizy Center, working as an Environmental Educator. She became a Master Naturalist to add to her skills and certifications as a professional in the ecology and biology fields. She found that the MN program gave her some new perspectives, even as a trained professional. As she says, even in your own field, “you can’t study everything”, and some of the MN material gave her hands-on exposure to areas outside her graduate specialty (which is herpetology, specifically turtles).