

CURE Heads Out of the City and Into the Woods

April 30, 2019 / By [Jena Frick](#)

Kahamari Stubbs, a sixth-grade student from West Baltimore considers himself a city kid. Living in an urban environment, Stubbs is familiar with honking cars, crowded sidewalks, and brick buildings.

On April 22, Stubbs swapped out his city views for trees and greenery when he visited the [Carrie Murray Nature Center](#) as part of a field trip with the [University of Maryland, Baltimore](#) (UMB) [CURE Scholars Program](#) — a unique mentoring/STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education program aimed at reducing racial disparities in public health by establishing a pipeline to careers in STEM.



The CURE Scholars split up in teams of two to pick up trash along the creek bed in Gwynns Falls Leakin Park.

“I don’t spend a lot of time out in the woods,” Stubbs said as he wandered around the nature center. “It’s a change for me because I’m not used to it, but it’s an adventure so I have to do it!”

(View a [photo gallery](#).)

The trip to the nature center was certainly a new kind of adventure for Stubbs and the seven other CURE Scholars who attended. During their visit, they were able to explore the wild side of Maryland along the Gwynns Falls hiking trail and even got to meet several animals living at the Carrie Murray Nature Center including turtles, lizards, owls, several other birds of prey, and snakes.

“At first, I was a little shocked because I’m not used to petting animals like that,” said Stubbs. “They were kind of creepy, especially the snakes. For me to actually pet a snake, it was weird but fun at the same time!”