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## Welcome

Welcome to the 2015-2016 Biggz Kidz Scholarship program!

We commend you on your dedication to raising a well-rounded and environmentally conscious child. Please take some time to review this packet. It contains important information about Biggz Kidz that will help you and your child get the most out of the program.

Should you read through it and have any additional questions, please contact us at [biggzkidz@gmail.com](mailto:biggzkidz@gmail.com) or 225.456.5355

Sincerely,  
The Biggz Kidz Staff

## About the Program

Biggz Kidz is an environmentally minded and community focused program for Baton Rouge children. The program is a partnership between the YMCA of the Capital Area and Biggz Professional Tree Care. Our goals are to teach children about environmental stewardship through urban forestry and to reward them for making responsible, healthy, and environmentally conscious decisions.

By educating and connecting children with the natural world around them, Biggz Kidz hopes to help children foster a deeper appreciation for themselves, their neighbors, and their community as a whole.



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## Classes

Biggz Kidz classes are held once per month throughout the year. Class locations will rotate each quarter between the three participating YMCA locations. Please see the **Schedule** for details. Classes are one hour long and are scheduled on weekdays during after-school hours. Parents are strongly encouraged to remain on the premises during classes and are welcome to observe if desired.

*\*The first class is on October 6, 2015*

**Curriculum:** The Biggz Kidz curriculum focuses on urban forestry. Lessons also include environmental and life science concepts presented in a fun, age-appropriate manner. The curriculum was developed by a team of experienced environmental education professionals.

**Environment:** Classes will be held in both indoor & outdoor settings.

**Staffing:** Our classes are taught by a team of instructors, including some Biggz Tree Care staff, with backgrounds in science, education, and other fields. Our instructors have training and experience in working with youth.

**Absences:** Attendance is counted towards the scholarship award total. If your child misses more than one class per quarter, he/she will not be allowed to continue in the program.

## Mid-Year Parents Night

A family event will be scheduled at the mid-year point of the program. This will be your chance to see the kids show off all they have done! Parents will also have an opportunity to provide their feedback on Biggz Kidz to help us improve the program as we continue to grow.

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***Self Care through Tree Care***



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## Field Trip

We will schedule a local field trip for students, their families and anyone who would like to attend. It will provide an opportunity to see the unique features that Baton Rouge's urban forest has to offer.

## Rewards

Yearly gifts will be offered. They will vary according to attendance and may include additional educational investments, free participation in other YMCA programs, gift cards, and/or other options.

We believe strongly that part of the strength of this program is in its ability to form a positive, long-term relationship with you and your child. Because of this, each subsequent year that your child is enrolled in Biggz Kidz, a 10% bonus will be added to all prize values.