



# Hitchcock Center for the Environment—Summer Camp 2012



## What's better in the summer than digging in the dirt, building shelters and splashing in rivers?

The Hitchcock Center's summer day camp provides a wonderful opportunity for children to explore the natural world. Campers spend one or two weeks discovering the habitats of the Larch Hill Conservation Area, hiking, playing, and learning. We focus on team building and making connections between the natural world and our lives. Our camp provides hands-on experiences that encourage creativity and curiosity while expanding each child's knowledge and skills. Each day is designed with outside explorations, cooperative games, art projects, songs, and science experiments. Day campers will spend part of their week traveling by van to local conservation areas to study local streams, ponds and forests. The Explorers (ages 8–10) will visit the Mill River Pool twice a week and the Young Naturalists (ages 6–7) will have sprinkler play and river wading time to cool off.

### Junior Counselor Opportunities

**ATTENTION YOUNG PEOPLE 13 AND OLDER!**

**DO YOU LIKE WORKING WITH CHILDREN?**

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT NATURE?**

If so, the Hitchcock Center has a wonderful opportunity for you —becoming a volunteer junior counselor! It is a great way to serve your community, work with young children, learn about nature and of course, have a lot of fun! Our junior counselors spend one or two weeks of the summer assisting the head counselors and being a positive role model for campers.

#### AS A JUNIOR COUNSELOR YOU WILL:

Serve the community, learn about your local environment gain leadership skills and be a tremendous help to our counselors!

Training and supervision is provided by experienced education staff. If interested, send a letter about your interest in nature and spending time with young children, along with three phone references to:

Katie Koerten, Camp Director  
525 South Pleasant Street • Amherst, MA 01002  
katie@hitchcockcenter.org • 413-256-6006

### Our Camp Staff

The Hitchcock Center's goal is to foster appreciation and curiosity about the environment within a safe and supportive setting. Our camp counselors are chosen for their experience working with children, thorough understanding of environmental education and natural history, and their connection to the outdoors. They attend a week-long staff training in first aid, emergency procedures, natural history and environmental education practices. All counselors are First Aid and CPR certified and are attentive to issues of safety at all times.

### Camp Scholarships

Each summer we offer full and partial camp scholarships to children who otherwise would not be able to attend camp due to financial difficulty. Children are nominated by teachers, guidance counselors and community organizations in April. These scholarships are generated in large part through voluntary contributions we receive. Help give a child a rewarding experience in the outdoors: consider enclosing a donation toward our camp scholarship fund. A little bit can make all the difference to a child that wouldn't normally be able to go to camp.



Education for a Healthy Planet

## Hitchcock Nature Camp Information

**TWO AGE GROUPS SERVED:** Young Naturalists, ages 6–7 (grades K–1)  
Explorers, ages 8–10 (grades 2–4)

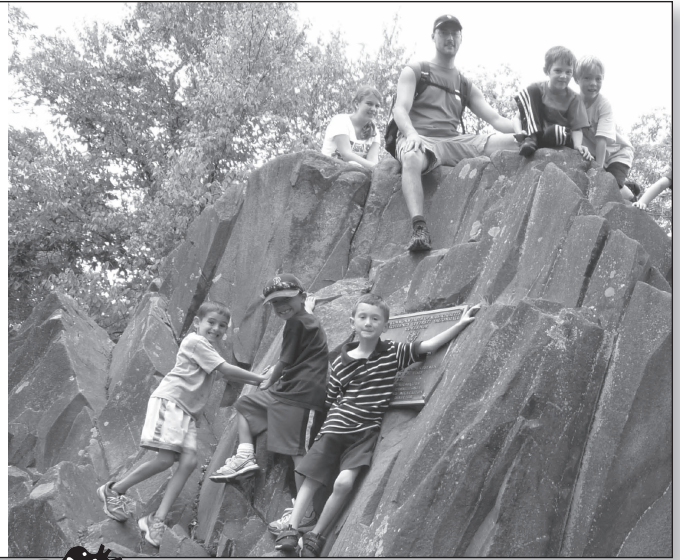
**DAILY SCHEDULE:** 8:30am–3pm, Monday through Friday

**CAMP SIZE:** 12–18 campers with two Camp Counselors

### CAMP FEES:

Sessions 1, 2, 3 (two-week sessions): Members: \$425 • Non-members \$455  
Session 4 (one-week session): Members: \$212 • Non-members: \$227

**Registration by MAIL only. Vouchers accepted. Scholarships awarded based on nominations from teachers, counselors and community groups.**



### Session 1: Hideouts and Habitats

JULY 2 – JULY 13\*

Come explore what makes our place special! In this session we will visit and compare some of our local habitats such as wetland, meadow, forest and river. We will build our sense of place by investigating questions like: where does our food come from, and what animals share our home with us? Through outdoor exploration, crafts, games, and field trips we will learn about the connections between us and the other living things that share our home.

\*Yes, camp will be held on July 4th!

### Session 2: Ecology is Everywhere

JULY 16 – JULY 27

In nature, one animal's trash is another animal's treasure! We are surrounded by different kinds of ecosystems and each one is home to creatures that depend on one another for survival. When we discover the interdependence of all living things and nature's systems and cycles we can take better care of our planet. With hikes, crafts, games and field activities we will learn about nature's life cycles and connections between local flowers, insects, mammals, birds, and us.



### Session 3: What Would Nature Do?

JULY 30 – AUGUST 10

What is the best way to cool off on a hot day? How can we save energy powering trains? Animals, plants and other organisms have been adapting to challenges like this for the whole history of our planet. Nature has a lot to teach us about how to solve problems in ways that are good for the Earth. Through hands-on inquiry, games, art and outdoor investigations we will discover the efficiency of nature's adaptations and ask what we can learn from nature about how to live more sustainably.

### Session 4: Clues to Nature's Past

AUGUST 13 – AUGUST 17

Come find out what the Pioneer Valley was like millions of years ago! With day trips, crafts, songs and nature hikes, we will make connections between our local ecosystems of today and those of prehistoric times, including the animals, dinosaurs, and plants that lived back then. We will learn the stories of the rocks around us, finding evidence of shifting plate tectonics, fossils, volcanoes, glaciers and the power of water.



*This camp complies with the regulations of the MA Department of Public Health and is licensed by the Amherst Board of Health.*



## Sign up for your summer outdoor adventure!

### HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Registration will be **accepted by mail only after March 1, 2012.**
- Member registration begins **postmarked March 1, 2012.**  
Non-member registration begins **postmarked March 15, 2012.**
- You will be notified of placements as they are processed. You may join the Hitchcock Center and include your membership payment at the time of registration. An annual Family Membership is \$50.
- A deposit of \$150 is required per session, per child, of which \$50 is non-refundable. If your child does not get into camp because there is no availability, you will receive a full refund of your deposit.
- Please fill out a registration form for each session and each camper you would like enrolled. Additional registration forms can be downloaded at [www.hitchcockcenter.org](http://www.hitchcockcenter.org).

### OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

Welcome packets and health forms are sent in early May. Please note that health forms will need to be signed by your child's doctor. Your camp balance and health form are **due four weeks prior to the start of the session.** The Hitchcock Center reserves the right to fill any spaces where balances are not paid by the due date. We accept VISA, MasterCard, checks, cash and vouchers. **Questions?** Call 413-256-6006 or email [katie@hitchcockcenter.org](mailto:katie@hitchcockcenter.org).

### CANCELLATION POLICIES

- If you cancel **prior to 30 days** before the first day of your session, you will receive a full refund minus \$50 of your deposit.
- If you cancel **15–30 days** before the first day of your session, you will receive a full refund minus the \$150 deposit.
- If you cancel **less than 15 days** before the first day of your session, you will not receive a refund, unless the program is full and we are able to fill your spot, then you may receive a 50% refund.
- Refunds will not be given for absent or sick days.
- Exceptions granted only in the case of a health emergency, evidenced by a written physician's statement, restricting the child from attending camp for the entire session.

## Hitchcock Nature Camp Registration Form

(Please complete a form for each child and each session. Additional forms can be downloaded at [www.hitchcockcenter.org](http://www.hitchcockcenter.org))

Camper: \_\_\_\_\_ Current grade: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Girl  Boy  Member  Non-member  
 Parent / Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### CAMP SESSION

(A \$150 deposit is required per form; \$50 is non-refundable.)

Age group:  Young Naturalist (grades K–1)  Explorers (grades 2–4)

First choice: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Second choice: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

### PAYMENT

\$50 Family membership: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Cash  Check (payable to: Hitchcock Center)  
 Minimum \$150 deposit (\$50 non-refundable): \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Voucher  VISA  MasterCard  
 Contribution to the Camp Scholarship Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION ACCEPTED BY MAIL ONLY:** Postmarked no earlier than March 1, 2012 for members & March 15, 2012 for non-members.

**PLEASE MAIL FORM WITH PAYMENT TO:** Hitchcock Center, 525 South Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA 01002

# Hitchcock Center for the Environment—Summer Camp 2012



**Hitchcock Center for the Environment**  
at Larch Hill Conservation Area  
525 South Pleasant Street  
Amherst, MA 01002



Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 38  
Amherst, MA 01002