

NATURE'S CHORUS CAMPS 2008

Welcome, old friends and new, to our seventh year of Nature's Chorus Camps at Great Hollow Wilderness School where awareness, survival skills, young naturalist training and ecology are what we are all about. Nature's Chorus Camps are unique in many ways and it is important that you have a good understanding of the core philosophy of the program so that you and your child can get the most out of the experience.

Nature's Chorus Philosophy

Small group size and a highly specialized naturalist staff characterize both of our Nature's Chorus camps. They are designed to offer students an intensive learning and growing experience in the woods of Great Hollow. The small teacher-student ratio allows us to give focused attention to each child's passions and needs. A child's interest in nature, a strong desire to learn and his/her compassion for others are natural qualities that are nurtured by the staff and the entire Nature's Chorus community. The result is a high quality program for students that feel a connection to and understanding of the natural world. This style models the way humans learned in more primitive cultures for many thousands of years. Nature's Chorus programs are a multi-layered, progressive learning experience, therefore the more weeks a child can attend the more he/she will get out of the summer.

Evergreen

Evergreen is a day camp dedicated to honing the child's sensory awareness, observational and research skills, and reflective processes. Bird watching, animal tracking, survival skills, and field ecology experiments, are some of the topics we will cover. The curriculum is multi-faceted and includes storytelling, games, field studies, exploration and more. Each week has a unique theme (see weekly schedule), however, all weeks are interrelated and may touch on all subjects. The camp is designed for children ages 8-15.

Riversong

Riversong is a half-day program that fosters creativity and compassion in the hearts and minds of children ages 5 - 7. Using the natural world as a medium, children will engage in singing, storytelling, nature crafts, nature exploration, role-playing, and basic naturalist skills (animal tracking, shelter building, leaf studies, nature observation, etc.) Social skills enhancement and inner creativity are the result. Invisible threads woven through the subtle curriculum include peace, unity, sharing, respect, appreciation, and honesty.

Vision and mission

Nature's Chorus Programs are not just a summer camps; they lay the foundation for a new way of approaching life. They develop an opportunity for students to connect as a community on an ongoing basis. It is a model for learning and growing year-round. In the last three years, Nature's Chorus philosophies have grown at Great Hollow to incorporate after-school and home-school programs, weekend camp-outs, and adult education. We are excited and privileged to be able to invite you and your children to share in such a rewarding journey.

Please return the following:

- ❖ **Camp Application with payment and post dated information (if not paying in full)**

The following forms must be turned in by the first day your child attends camp:

- ❖ **Medical Form**
- ❖ **Waiver Form**
- ❖ **Permission to administer medication, if needed. Note: This form must be signed by both a physician and parent.**

Lunch: All campers need to bring a lunch made up of nonperishable foods that they can carry in their backpack. The State Health Department no longer accepts insulated lunch boxes or bags as adequate storage for perishable foods.

EVERGREEN

Camp Descriptions by Week

- **Full Day Program** Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Ages 8-15 \$275 per week
- **Extended Care Available:** 8:00-9:00 a.m. \$25 per week 4:00-5:00 p.m. \$25 per week
- **Weeks 4 and 5** incorporate an optional Thursday overnight for an additional \$30

Week 1 Natural Awareness

July 7-July 11

Participants will have their eyes opened to the secrets of the forest through games and exercises designed to hone the senses. Stalking, tracking and games that focus on using one sense at a time will culminate in a day of challenges to demonstrate how much the participants have learned.

Week 2 Wetlands

July 14-July 18

We will explore the beautiful wetlands of our 890 acres. The waterfall crawl, river walk and visits to our dipping pools will be focuses for the week. Learn about aquatic and amphibious animals, wetland plant life and the terrestrial visitors to these wet places.

Week 3 Lives of Plants & Animals

July 21-July 25

Through observation and tracking we will study the plants and animals that surround us. One may be surprised how much is going on right under their nose! Get to know a few trees, plants and animal species better than you thought possible.

Week 4 Ancient Crafts and Skills

July 28-Aug. 1

Learn the old ways as we experiment in getting things done without modern tools. Primitive fire making, cooking, shelter-building and an introduction to useful and edible plants highlight all the amazing skills we will cover.

Week 5 People In Nature

Aug. 4 - Aug. 8

Humanity's effects on Nature and its effect on us is profound. Learn more about our relationship with the world around us by studying the old farm fields and foundations and how Nature has reclaimed them as well as discovering your own level of comfort in the outdoors.

What to Bring: Notebook, pencil, shoes that can get wet, bathing suit, towel, hat, sunscreen, bug repellent, snack, optional: hand lens, compass, field guides, and binoculars.

RIVERSONG

- **July 7–August 1** Half-Day Program Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Ages 5-7 \$150 per week
- **Extended Care Available - AM Only:** 8:00-9:00 a.m. \$25 per week

The smallest of our Nature buffs, the Riversong participants, will follow similar themes as the Evergreens in this half day course. We will sing songs, tell stories and explore, pretend to be our favorite animal and be exposed to the Natural world in a positive way. The interactions with other children and their instructors in this environment foster honesty and a connection to all living things.

Riversong Parents: Please have your child wear their bathing suit to camp under their clothes. Have them wear good walking shoes and bring shoes that can get wet. We wade in the river everyday in a shallow stream PLEASE PACK A LUNCH.