



Earthplace  
The Nature Discovery Center

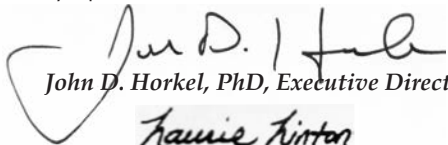
# Summer Camp

## 2012

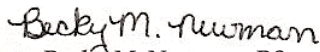
### Welcome...

to a summer of fun, learning and investigation! At Earthplace we use our 62-acre wildlife sanctuary as an outdoor classroom. On trail walks through our woods and meadows, past streams and ponds, we often spot wildlife in their natural surroundings, including deer, turtles, hawks, wild turkeys and groundhogs. Every week animals from our indoor Animal Hall come to visit. Campers love making friends, daily hikes and playground fun.

We work hard to give each child a summer experience that encourages a lifelong appreciation for the natural world around us. We look forward to getting to know your children and introducing them to a summer of discovery and fun. Please contact us if you have any questions.

  
John D. Horkel, PhD, Executive Director

  
Laurie Linton, MS, Director of Education

  
Becky M. Newman, BS,  
Camp Director, Naturalist

**CAMPFIRE  
JULY 13  
7-8:30 p.m.**

### SESSION THEMES

The themes change every week and are camp-wide. There are many opportunities to explore new aspects of nature through hands-on activities, group games, field trips, hikes and crafts. Once a session, on Wednesdays, children in grades 1 through 4 go on area field trips, which extends that day until 4:00 p.m. You may choose one of our four canoe weeks for your 3rd or 4th grader. The 5th-7th graders alternate weeks between canoeing and camping overnight at Earthplace.

### STAFF

Each group has at least one group leader and two assistant counselors. Our staff is experienced in working with children either here at Earthplace as teachers, naturalists or as professionals in local school systems. The camper to staff ratio ranges from 5:1 for the 3's to 7:1 for most of the other groups. The staff is selected for their enjoyment of and experience with their assigned age group and their love and knowledge of nature.

### HEALTH

The camp has a nurse on the premises who is in charge of first aid and collecting camper medicals. All group leaders have First Aid, CPR, Medication and Epi-Pen training. We are also happy to have air-conditioned indoor classrooms to use on hot summer days.

### SPIRIT DAYS

Every Wednesday is Earthplace T-shirt Day! Your children can wear the shirt that they receive for being a camper this year or a camp shirt from a previous year. There will also be a special theme day every Friday. The special theme day will coincide with our camp-wide Sing-a-Long each Friday morning.

### BEFORE & AFTER CARE

Earthplace offers childcare before and after each session. Early morning care runs from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., and afternoon care from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Sign up is for the whole week. The 3's are not eligible for this program. All other groups can come for 5 mornings. In the afternoon, the 4's and K's attend for 5 days. Because of the Wednesday field trips, the 1st and 2nd grade group and the 3rd and 4th grade group only attend for 4 days. Sign up is at time of enrollment. The cost of the AM Care for the week is \$50. In the afternoon the cost for the week for the 4's and Kindergarteners is \$100. The cost for the 1st-4th graders is \$80.



### NEW THIS YEAR:

- A week for 7-9th graders, August 6--10.
- Extended programming for our CITs so they can experience Harbor Watch, Animal Hall and Museum activities.
- No peanut butter

## SESSION INFORMATION 3s through 4th Grade

### Water Investigators

July 9-13

Friday: Inside Out Day

3rd & 4th Grade - Canoeing

Water covers over 70% of the Earth. Where do we find it? Can we make more? What are some of the ways that it can be cleaned and why is it important? We will investigate rivers, ponds and salt water habitats and take a very close look at this most essential element.



### Everything Science

July 16-20

Friday: Pajama Day

This week we'll put on our lab coats and become scientists. Our campers will make their own polymers, slime, create a chemical reaction and be involved in many more fun science activities.



## SESSION INFORMATION 3s through 4th Grade

### Pets

July 23-27

Friday: Crazy Hair Day

3rd & 4th Grade - Canoeing

Whether your family has a dog, cat, guinea pig or goldfish, our pets are a big part of our lives. This week we'll explore the difference between pets and wild animals. We'll compare the domestic and wildlife that lives at Earthplace and we'll discover what makes a good pet and what goes into keeping a pet healthy.



### Survival

July 30-August 3

Friday: Mismatch Day

Food, water, habitat and shelter are essential to survival. How do people and animals survive in the wild? This week we will identify the elements we need to survive and we'll learn some practical survival skills, which may come in handy.

### Nature Photography

August 6-10

Friday: Backwards Day

3rd & 4th Grade - Canoeing

The cameras are coming back to camp! Every camper will be given a disposable camera to see what moments in nature we can capture. Can we find a picturesque landscape or an adorable animal pose? We'll use the sanctuary as our "location" and see just how creative we can be.



## SESSION INFORMATION 3s, 4s, Kindergarten only

### **Trees, Trees, Trees** **June 18-22** **Friday: Pajama Day**

Oak, maple, birch or beech?  
Campers will study the variety of trees here at Earthplace and learn to identify them by looking at leaves, bark, shape and size. We'll make our own trees, measure tree trunks and do leaf and bark rubbings.  
3-year-olds, 4-year-olds and Kindergarten groups only



### **Program Requirements:**

- All children should bring a lunch. A snack is provided.
- A medical form is required for all campers by May 1. The form can be downloaded from the Earthplace website, and is also available in the office. Note that the date of your child's physical must be within one year of the session date. If your child's medical form expires in the summer, it must be updated at that time.
- 3 year olds – Children must be 3 by their 1st day of camp.
- 4 year olds – Children must be 4 by December 31, 2012 and toilet trained.
- There are 20 children per class per one week session, except for the 3's group, which has a class limit of 15 children, and 5th-7th which has a class limit of 10.
- Children must wear closed toe shoes and be dressed for the weather.

## SESSION INFORMATION 3s through 4th Grade

### **Sticky Prickly Nature** **June 25-29** **Friday: Crazy Hair Day** **3rd & 4th Grade - Canoeing**

This week is about spiky, sticky, prickly nature. Many plants and animals have special adaptations. Porcupines have quills, and burdocks stick like Velcro. We'll learn just what purposes these sticky, prickly adaptations serve.



### **Animals in Architecture** **July 2-6** **No Camp Wed., July 4** **Field trip on Thursday** **Friday: Crazy Sock Day**

Animals like to live everywhere: inside, outside, in the city, in the country and in our houses! This week is all about who lives in our homes and other unexpected places. Are there bugs in our walls? Where are all the mice? We will also explore what may have taken residence in some objects that we put out in the woods.



## SESSION INFORMATION

### Grades 5 - 7

### Sticky-Prickly Nature June 25-29

#### CANOE WEEK

This week is about spiky, sticky, prickly nature. Many plants and animals have special adaptations. Porcupines have quills, and burdocks stick like Velcro. We'll learn just what purposes these sticky, prickly adaptations serve. We'll also canoe and travel to Silver Sands State Park.

### Animals in Architecture July 2-6

#### No Camp Wed., July 4 CAMPING WEEK

Let's discover some animal habitats where we'd least expect them. Campers will travel to NYC and downtown Westport to see what animals live in the town and the city. We'll also investigate a farm. We'll leave our homes and spend an evening at Earthplace for a sleepover.

### Water Investigators July 9-13

#### CANOE WEEK

This week we'll delve into the wonders of water with Earthplace Harbor Watch. We'll explore the differences between fresh water and salt water and discover different ways to tell if the water is healthy. Campers will perform experiments on water both outdoors and in our laboratory. Enjoy sunny days discovering the creatures that live beneath the surface down by the river and out on Long Island Sound.

### Everything Science July 16-20

#### CAMPING WEEK

We'll spend a day each at The Connecticut Science Center, The Liberty Science Center and The New York Hall of Science. Campers will don lab coats and spend a day at Earthplace conducting experiments in the laboratory. We'll cook and camp outside at Earthplace, too.



## SESSION INFORMATION

### Grades 5 - 7

### Animal Ambassadors July 23-27

#### CANOE WEEK

This week we'll spend some time in the animal hall learning how to care for the resident animals. We'll discover the differences between the wild and domestic animals. Field trips will take us to a pet store, zoo and aquarium. And we'll canoe on the Saugatuck River.

### Survival July 30 - August 3

#### CAMPING WEEK

Discover the basics that we need to survive. We'll visit the Pequot Museum to find out how the Native Americans learned to live in the wilderness. Come hike the Sleeping Giant State Park with us. Together we'll use the survival skills we've learned when we camp overnight at Earthplace.

### Nature Photography August 6-10

#### CANOE WEEK

Calling all amateur nature photographers! Campers will receive disposable cameras and creatively explore the natural world. Together we'll explore the Mianus River Gorge, Sheffield Island Lighthouse and spend a day on the river canoeing, snapping photos along the way. Everyone will take home their own scrapbook.

**CAMPFIRE**  
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## Grades 7 - 9

### Water Investigators August 6-10

This week is about the wonders of water. With Earthplace Harbor Watch staff, we'll explore the differences between fresh water and salt water, and discover different ways to tell if the water is healthy. Come explore experiments on water both outdoors and in our laboratory. Enjoy sunny days discovering the creatures that live beneath the surface down by the river and out on Long Island Sound. One day will be spent canoeing.

## Grades 5 - 9

### Exploring Philadelphia August 13-17

This year, we're headed to the historical city of Philadelphia. We'll visit Longwoods Garden, the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall, as well as Wagner Free Institute of Science. We'll spend 4 nights under the stars in our tents as we explore the city, history and nature of Philadelphia.



### Registration Information:

- February 1 - Registration begins for children of current Earthplace members as of 12/31/11.
- February 22 - Registration begins for children of new Earthplace members.
- On registration day, mail or bring your completed forms and all payments to Earthplace. Registration is processed on a first come, first served basis.
- Earthplace will notify you of your registration status by mail within 14 days of receipt of registration form. Upon acceptance, Earthplace will send you the necessary medical forms, final invoice and other important information.
- If the classes you requested are filled, your name will be added to the Wait List and all registration payments will be refunded.
- **The non-refundable Earthplace Family Membership is required.** If your membership expires during your child's attendance at the summer program you will be asked to renew your membership when registering.
- Payment in full is due at the time of registration.
- **Cancellation/Refund Policy:** 75% of tuition will be refunded if you cancel before May 1, 2012. There will be no refunds after May 1, 2012.
- A \$25 administration fee will be charged for all session changes made after registration forms have been processed. Payment is due prior to changes.
- **The medical form must be returned to Earthplace by May 1.** Note that the date of your child's physical must be within one year of the session date. If your child's medical form expires in the summer, it must be updated at that time.

## Counselor-In-Training (CIT) - Ages 14 & 15

The Earthplace CIT program offers an excellent opportunity for teenagers to develop leadership skills in an outdoor educational environment. On Mondays and Thursdays the CITs will meet with their group leader to discuss events of the day, camper behaviors and ways to handle challenging situations. During this time they will be able to ask questions and participate in role-playing and hands-on situations. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays they will meet with different program staff from Harbor Watch, Animal Hall and Natureplace to deepen their understanding of issues related to environmental education. Participants must commit to two consecutive week-long sessions. We have a limited enrollment for this program and all participants are asked to submit an application and have an interview. Before registering, please call 203-227-7253 x 107 for an application and to set up an interview time.

### CIT Focus of the Week, 2:15 – 3:15:

June 25 – Harbor Watch	July 23 – Harbor Watch
July 2 – All programs	July 30 – Animal Hall
July 9 – Animal Hall	August 6 – Museum
July 16 – Museum	

**Fee: \$200 per session**

**Schedule: Monday: 8:30-3:15**

**Tuesday-Thursday: 9-3:15**

**Friday: 9-2:15**

**Go to [www.earthplace.org](http://www.earthplace.org)  
to download the CIT application form.**