

LEARN ABOUT GARDENING, NATURE, BIRDS, BUGS, FROGS AND MORE AT THE ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

Essex County Executive DiVincenzo Invites Children and Families to Expand their Understanding and Appreciation of the Environment

Essex County, NJ – A variety of programs are being offered at the Essex County Environmental Center during the month of June that will teach children and adults about nature and help them gain a greater appreciation and understanding of our environment. Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. invites children and adults to visit the Environmental Center where they can enjoy an enriching recreational experience through nature and conservation activities.

“Our Environmental Center has become the premiere location for environmental education and nature appreciation. With the help of our partner groups, our dynamic schedule of events and activities will captivate all ages,” DiVincenzo said. “Walk in our woods, discover habitats, get pointers on gardening, learn about nature photography and much more. It’s all about nature and it’s all at our Environmental Center,” he added.

Events scheduled for June are as follows:

“Little Explorers Summer Nature Program” is for children ages 2 to 5. Children will discover some interesting areas in the wooded wetland by exploring mud, looking for crayfish, sending boats afloat and more! Participants should bring an extra set of clothes and shoes in case they get muddy or wet. The pre-K class accepts 10 children and the 2- to 3-year old class accepts 8. Classes will be held rain or shine. **Cost is \$12 per child/session.** Advance registration and payment are required. For information, call 973-228-8776. *Little Explorers Summer Nature Program* will be held as follows:

Age: 2 year olds
Dates and Time: Tuesdays, June 4 & 18 at 10 a.m.

Age: 3 year olds
Dates and Time: Thursdays, June 6 & 20 at 1 p.m.

Ages: 4 and 5 year olds
Dates and Time: Tuesdays, June 4 & 18 at 1 p.m.
OR Thursdays, June 6 & 20 at 10 a.m.

Place: Essex County Environmental Center
621B Eagle Rock Avenue
Roseland, NJ

“Bio Dome Garden Club” is for children ages 5 and up. Participants will get a hands-on experience and learn about growing plants, seeds, fruits, vegetables and flowers. Make and take projects at each session. **Cost is \$10 per child per session.** Advanced registration, payment and

minimum number of participants are required. For information, call 973-228-8776. *Bio Dome Garden Club* will be held as follows:

Date: Tuesday, June 4, 2019
Time: 4 p.m.
Place: Essex County Environmental Center
621B Eagle Rock Avenue
Roseland, NJ

“Essential Oil Friendship Bracelets” is for children ages 4 to 9. Create a crafting memory with nature-inspired, diffuser bracelets. Essential oils can help children stay calm and focused. Jenn Forino, founder of plusoils.com, will teach a kid-friendly, mini-workshop on how essential oils can be powerful tools for overall health and wellness. Each child will make a set of diffuser bracelets (one for themselves and one to give a parent/caregiver). Additionally, each child will receive a roller bottle of therapeutic-grade essential oil, diluted so it is safe for them to apply to their diffuser bracelet. **Cost is \$25 per child/adult participant.** Advanced registration and minimum number of participants are required. For information, call 973-228-8776. *Essential Oil Friendship Bracelets* will be held as follows:

Date: Saturday, June 8, 2019
Time: 11 a.m.
Place: Essex County Environmental Center
621B Eagle Rock Avenue
Roseland, NJ

“S’mores N’ More” is for families. Participants will build a campfire and practice fundamental fire skills in a safe and controlled environment. Once the fire is burning, marshmallows will be roasted and S’mores will be made. All ages welcome. **Cost is \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child and \$12 per adult.** Advanced registration and minimum number of participants are required. For information, call 973-228-8776. *S’mores N’ More* will be held as follows:

Date: Saturday, June 8, 2019
Time: 1 to 2:30 p.m.
Place: Essex County Environmental Center
621B Eagle Rock Avenue
Roseland, NJ

“Bug Club” is for children ages 6 to 10. The Bug Club is devoted to children who want to explore the wonders of insects through field walks, games, stories and crafts. **Cost is \$10 per child per session.** Advance registration, payment and minimum number of participants are required. For information, call 973-228-8776. *Bug Club* meets as follows:

Date: Tuesday, June 11, 2019
Time: 4 p.m.
Place: Essex County Environmental Center

**621B Eagle Rock Avenue
Roseland, NJ**

“4-H Young Gardeners Club” is for children in kindergarten to grade 12. Have you ever wondered how vegetables and flowers grow? From where spaghetti sauce comes? How you can find a rainbow in a garden? The 4-H Young Gardener's Club can provide the answers to these questions and more. Meet in Garibaldi Hall. Advance registration is required. For information, call 973-353-1337 or visit essex.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/. *4-H Young Gardeners Club* will meet as follows:

Date: Tuesdays, June 11, 18 & 25, 2019
Time: 4 p.m.
**Place: Essex County Environmental Center
Garibaldi Hall**
**621A Eagle Rock Avenue
Roseland, NJ**

“Birding Walk in Troy Meadows” is presented by New Jersey Audubon. This varied habitat can be great to see breeding birds of the woodlands and meadows. The combination of forest and meadow habitat makes for spectacular views of late summer residents actively foraging. Footing may be wet. Meet at the Essex County Environmental Center and carpool to trail head. **Cost is \$8 for NJA members and \$10 for non-members.** To register, call 908-396-6386. *Birding Walk* will be held as follows:

Date: Thursday, June 13, 2019
Time: 8:30 a.m.
**Place: Essex County Environmental Center
621B Eagle Rock Avenue
Roseland, NJ**

“Bird Club” is for children ages 5 through 10. Come explore the wooded wetland and see what birds live here. Use binoculars, field guides, and a keen sense of observation to discover and identify all sorts of birds. **Cost is \$10 per child per session.** Advance registration, payment and minimum number of participants are required. For information, call 973-228-8776. *Bird Club* will be held as follows:

Date: Thursday, June 13, 2019
Time: 4 p.m.
**Place: Essex County Environmental Center
621B Eagle Rock Avenue
Roseland, NJ**

“Birding Field Trip in Essex County Hatfield Swamp” is presented by New Jersey Audubon. Hikers will look for breeding birds in the wetland meadows and forests of this largely intact Essex County reservation. Exploring varied habitats for breeding birds such as warblers, flycatchers and more. Footing may be wet. This is a joint trip with Bergen County Audubon. Meet at the West

Caldwell Stop & Shop. **This is a free event.** To register, call 908-396-6386. *Birding Field Trip* will be held as follows:

Date: Saturday, June 15, 2019
Time: 8 a.m.
Meeting Site: Stop & Shop
875 Bloomfield Avenue
West Caldwell, NJ

“Passaic River Canoe Trip” is for adults and children ages 12 and up. Paddle up the Passaic River from the Environmental Center to Okner Park in Livingston. Pack your own snack to enjoy at the park and then float back down to Garibaldi Hall. The session includes basic paddling safety and techniques and all equipment. This is appropriate for intermediate and advanced paddlers. Children ages 12 and up may paddle with a parent guardian. **Cost is \$15 per person.** Advanced registration and minimum number of participants are required. For information, call 973-228-8776. Passaic River Canoe Trip will be held as follows:

Date: Saturday, June 15, 2019
Time: 9 a.m.
Place: Essex County Environmental Center
Garibaldi Hall
621A Eagle Rock Avenue
Roseland, NJ

“Horticulture for Seniors” is for senior citizens. Join the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Essex County for this horticulture class especially designed for senior citizens. The topic for June is *Succulents in the Sand*. Meet in Garibaldi Hall. **This is a free program.** Advance registration is required one week prior to program. For registration or more information, call Helen at 973-731-0717 or the Master Gardner Helpline at 973-228-2210. *Horticulture for Seniors* will be held as follows:

Date: Monday, June 17, 2019
Time: 1 p.m.
Place: Essex County Environmental Center
Garibaldi Hall
621A Eagle Rock Avenue
Roseland, NJ

“Wild Edible Walk” is for adults and children ages 8 and up. Take a walk along the trails and identify and discuss the variety of forest groceries available for harvest around the local landscape. Learn some of the folklore behind the plants and discuss proper identification, seasonal harvest, growing environment and methods of preparation. **Cost is \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child and \$12 per adult.** Advanced registration and minimum number of participants are required. For information, call 973-228-8776. *Wild Edible Walk* will be held as follows:

Date: Friday, June 21, 2019
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: Essex County Environmental Center
621B Eagle Rock Avenue
Roseland, NJ

“Bike Right – Learn To Ride” is for children ages 5 and older. Bike Right Learn to Ride will teach children the safe, easy and effective way to learn to ride. Using this "balance first" method, parents help get their children rolling while the child does most of the work. Participants learn the basics of balancing, starting, stopping, and steering a bike, as well as proper helmet fit and adjustment. Please bring a helmet and a bike (without training wheels) in good working order. In the event of rain, this program will be rescheduled. Meet in Garibaldi Hall. **Cost is \$10 per child.** Advanced registration and minimum number of participants are required. For information, call 973-228-8776. *Bike Right – Learn to Ride* will be held as follows:

Date: Saturday, June 22, 2019
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Place: Essex County Environmental Center
Garibaldi Hall
621A Eagle Rock Avenue
Roseland, NJ

“New Jersey Woodturners” is for adults and children ages 3 and up. Learn to turn and discover the wonders of creating art from found pieces of wood. Topics vary by the month. Meet in Garibaldi Hall. **Cost is \$10 per adult and free for NJWA members.** Call Bob Amarant at 908-442-4729 for details. *New Jersey Woodturners* will meet as follows:

Date: Monday, June 24, 2019
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: Essex County Environmental Center
Garibaldi Hall
621A Eagle Rock Avenue
Roseland, NJ

“Wilderness Skills Summer Camp” is for grades 5 to 8. Join Traditional Earth Skills Instructor Mike Dennis for up to two sessions of outdoor skills building. During session one, students will take a traditional approach and, during session two, a modern approach will be followed. Participants will identify plants, learn to track animals, create fire, go canoeing, make natural rope, build shelters and more. Call the Center at 973-228-8776 for details. **Cost is \$195 per child/per week.** Advanced registration is required. *Wilderness Skills Summer Camp* will be held as follows:

Dates: Session 1: Wednesday to Friday, June 26, 27, 28, 2019
Session 2: Monday to Wednesday, July 1, 2, 3, 2019
Times: 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Place: Essex County Environmental Center
621B Eagle Rock Avenue

Roseland, NJ

“Outdoor Adventures” is for families. Climb a fallen tree, play red-light/green-light on the Lenape Trail. Participants will explore the forest with adventure in their spirits and movement with their bodies. Those in the class will balance, hop and play games to ensure they connect with nature and make outdoor exercise a great experience. **Cost is \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child and \$12 per adult.** Advanced registration and minimum number of participants are required. For information, call 973-228-8776. *Outdoor Adventures* will be held as follows:

Date: Thursday, June 27, 2019
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Place: Essex County Environmental Center
621B Eagle Rock Avenue
Roseland, NJ

“Summer Camp Adventures at Essex County Environmental Center,” a photography exhibit by Senior Staff Naturalist David Alexander, will be on display in the Essex County Environmental Center during the month of June.

Registration is required for all programs at the Essex County Environmental Center, unless otherwise noted. For more information or to register, please call 973-228-8776.