

**ESSEX COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIVINCENZO INVITES CHILDREN TO PARTICIPATE
IN SPRING AND SUMMER CAMPS AT ESSEX COUNTY TURTLE BACK ZOO,
ESSEX COUNTY CODEY ARENA AND ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL
CENTER**

Essex County, NJ – Essex County Executive DiVincenzo invites children of all ages to participate in spring and summer camp opportunities at Essex County Turtle Back Zoo, Essex County Codey Arena and the Essex County Environmental Center. These affordable programs provide the campers with a fun and enriching experience while school is on recess.

“Come participate in the many recreational and enrichment opportunities available for children of all ages. Young people can learn about nature and animals through exciting hands-on activities while visiting Essex County Turtle Back Zoo or our Environmental Center. Youngsters will have a fun-filled adventure when they go to one of our affordable camps at either facility. For a great physical challenge, they can hit the ice at Codey Arena in our Learn to Skate programs. Every day brings something new in Essex!” DiVincenzo said.

Essex County Turtle Back Zoo has several week-long camp adventures that will introduce children to the extraordinary world of animals, nature and science.

Campers and their parents/guardians are invited to attend Turtle Back Zoo’s *2nd Annual Summer Camp Open House*. At this free event, they can meet camp counselors, learn about the science-based curriculum, try a camp-styled activity, and say hello to a few of the zoo’s Animal Ambassadors. Summer Camp Open House will be held as follows:

Date: Saturday, March 3, 2018
Times: 12 noon to 3 p.m.
Place: Essex County Turtle Back Zoo
560 Northfield Avenue
West Orange, NJ

The week-long *Spring Break Mini-Camp* is from Monday, April 2nd to Friday, April 6th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Students ages 5 to 10 become world travelers as they learn about animals and cultures from around the globe. Discovery activities, science experiments and special animal experiences make this a fun way to spend spring break. Enroll for one day or attend all week.

The *Zoo Summer Camp* will be held from July through August from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Campers will be introduced to the extraordinary world of animals, nature and science. The age-appropriate themed camps for children ages 5 to 14 include hands-on scientific inquiry, teacher-guided lessons, behind-the-scenes experiences, up-close animal encounters, and fun crafts and activities. Zoological Society members may register beginning Saturday, March 17th; online registration for the general public begins Saturday, March 31st.

To learn more about these programs or to register, visit www.turtlebackzoo.com/zoo-camp/. Advanced registration and payment are required. Turtle Back Zoo is located at 560 Northfield Avenue in West Orange.

The **Essex County Environmental Center** is offering Nature Explorers Spring and Summer Camps for children in pre-school to grade 5.

The *Nature Explorers Spring Camp* is a three-day program for children in grades 1 to 5. Children will have the opportunity to explore nature at the Essex County Environmental Center.

The sessions are scheduled for Tuesday, April 3rd; Wednesday, April 4th; and Thursday, April 5th from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. **Cost is \$150 per child for all three days or \$50 per child per day.**

The *Wilderness Skills Summer Camp* is for children in grades 5 to 8. *Traditional Earth Skills* Instructor Mike Dennis will lead 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. Children can sign up for one or two sessions. Session one is Wednesday, June 26th; Thursday, June 27th and Friday, June 28th from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Session two is Tuesday, July 3rd; Thursday, July 5th and Friday, July 6th from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. There is no camp on Wednesday, July 4th. **Cost is \$195 per child/per week.**

The *Nature Explorers Summer Camp* is a one-week program for children in pre-kindergarten to grade 4. Students will explore woodland and river habitats for insects, birds, amphibians, Lenape life and much more. Children can sign up for one or two weeks per grade level. Sessions for children in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten will be held July 9th to 13th and July 16th to 20th from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. each day. Sessions for children in grades 1 and 2 will be held July 23rd to 27th and July 30th to August 3rd from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. each day. Sessions for children in grades 3 and 4 will be held August 6th to 10th and August 13th to 17th from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. each day. **Cost is \$160 per child/per week for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten sessions; \$180 per child/per week for grades 1 and 2; and \$200 per child/per week for grades 3 and 4.**

A minimum number of participants, advanced registration and payment are required. For information, call the Environmental Center at 973-228-8776. The Essex County Environmental Center is located at 621B Eagle Rock Avenue in Roseland.

Essex County Codey Arena has sessions of its Learn to Skate camps available for young skaters as well as hockey and figure skating camps.

Spring Learn to Skate classes are held for eight weeks from March to May on Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Cost is \$140. *Summer Learn to Skate* classes are held for six to eight weeks from June to July on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Cost ranges from \$125 to \$145.

A *Summer Figure Skating Camp* is held weekly from Monday, June 25th to Friday, August 3rd. Full and half day sessions are available. Cost is \$400 per week for full day sessions and \$285 per week for half day sessions.

The schedule for *Summer Hockey Camps* is as follows: Monday, July 9th to Friday, July 13th is the D1 Hockey Development Camp, Monday, July 9th to Friday, July 13th and Monday, July 23 to Friday, July 27th is the Great Saves Goaltending Camp, Monday, July 16th to Monday, July 23rd is the Erik Nates Hockey Camp, Friday, July 20th to Sunday, July 22nd is the Simply Defense Hockey Camp and Monday, July 30th to Friday, August 3rd is the Pro Ambitions Hockey Camp.

For information about and fees for the skating programs call the arena at 973-731-3828. Essex County Codey Arena is located at 560 Northfield Avenue in West Orange.