

2010 Schiff Summer Nature Programs for Kids Staff

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For More Information:

973-543-6004

Or visit www.schiffnaturepreserve.org

*Schiff Nature Preserve
339 Pleasant Valley Road
Mendham, NJ 07945*



SCHIFF SUMMER NATURE PROGRAM FOR KIDS



“WHERE WILD THINGS
HAPPEN NATURALLY”

at the

**Schiff Nature
Preserve
Mendham, NJ**



Welcome!

Thank you for choosing the Schiff Summer Nature Program for Kids. Schiff's program will offer your child a wonderful experience that they will never forget. This informative bulletin is designed to help your family prepare for this summer. Whether your child is a newcomer to our programs or an old veteran, this information will be useful to you, so please take a few moments to read it through. Being properly prepared will maximize your child's experience. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the Schiff Nature Center at (973) 543-6004.

About The Schiff Natural Lands Trust

The Schiff Nature Preserve has been owned and held in trust for the public to enjoy by the Schiff Natural Lands Trust since 1984. The almost 600-acre (and growing!) nature preserve is located in Mendham Township and Mendham Borough. Schiff is located within the Ralston Historic District which is listed on both the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places. Artifacts have recently been discovered that confirm the presence of Revolutionary War activity on the property.



The Schiff Nature Preserve offers opportunities for hiking, biking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding and nature study on almost 14 miles of well maintained trails. These trails are open year-round during daylight hours and pass through several interesting habitats typical of the New Jersey Highlands. Visitors may choose to hike through our forested uplands, grassy meadows or along the picturesque banks of McVicker's Brook. Visitors can stop by our Nature Center to observe the live animal exhibits, visit the Native Plant Garden or perhaps to inquire about an interesting natural history sighting. For those interested in a more formal study of the environment, ecology and New Jersey natural history, the Schiff Nature Center offers a diverse calendar of educational programs. Our schedule changes monthly, providing the public with a variety of events. Please inquire about upcoming events so your family can continue to enjoy and learn from Schiff year-round.

Ticks and Lyme Disease

Lyme disease is a bacterial infection that is spread by the bite of the deer tick. Ticks are small, bloodsucking parasites that feed on humans, wild and domestic mammals, birds, and reptiles. Ticks *do not* have to interfere with a summer full of fun and enjoyment. We will teach your child about ticks and how to protect against them. You can help your child by dressing him/her in light colored clothing in order to quickly spot ticks. Tuck shirts into pants or shorts to keep ticks on the outside of clothing. After being outside, check your child, especially behind the ears, scalp, armpits, and around the groin. Have your child bathe and scrub with a washcloth each night. Put clothes that have been worn outside into the wash and on a high heat cycle in the dryer.



If you do find a tick on your child, use tweezers to grasp the tick's mouthparts as close to the skin as possible. Do not squeeze the tick's body. With gentle pressure, pull the tick straight up. Place the tick in a baggie with a cotton ball and label it with the date and location of the bite. This will assist you should a rash appear. Wash your hands and disinfect the tweezers and bite site. After removal, it can be normal for a small red spot to appear. Contact your doctor if you have any concerns or further questions.

Other Important Information

It is our job to be sure that your kids play in the dirt, so please dress your child in appropriate clothing, keeping in mind that he/she will get dirty and clothes may be stained. The tie dyed shirts that we make on the first two days of each week can be particularly messy! Shoes should be appropriate for hiking over rocks and through mud (sneakers or boots are best). For your child's safety, please do not send them in flip flops or Crocs. We will be outside in all weather including rain, unless it is lightning or thundering.

Please send your child each day with a small backpack containing the following items; a healthy nut-free snack, a reusable water bottle, cream or stick bug repellent (no sprays please), wind breaker/rain jacket, and hat. All items should be labeled with child's full name. Sunscreen should be applied at home before your child comes to Schiff. Please **do not** send your child with gum, candy, toys, electronics (Game Boys, iPods, cell phones), or money.

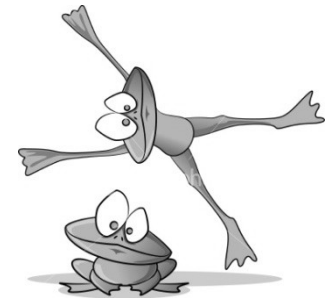


Our Mission

Summer is a time for relaxation and exploration. The natural world is waiting to be discovered – forests, streams, trails, and meadows. Our weekly schedule allows for plenty of organized activities, while still allowing time to relax, play with friends, and explore the natural world.

Our program of environmental study will allow your child to understand and recognize his/her connection to the environment as they develop an understanding of basic ecological principles. The activities will integrate plant and animal study through tree identification, animal tracking, web of life, predator-prey relationships, geology, bird watching, insect study, reptile/amphibian study, or an introduction to forest succession using the Great Meadow.

In keeping with our mission, Schiff Summer Nature Programs for Kids is committed to providing a safe and fun learning environment to challenge individuals while encouraging group cohesiveness and teamwork.



Our Staff

The Schiff Summer Nature Programs for Kids staff is comprised of trained adult instructors with professional backgrounds in a range of sciences and/or environmental education. High school and college-aged counselors are hired to provide additional supervision, instruction and to provide an optimal child-to-staff ratio, which does not exceed 12:2. Our staff comes together to share their talents, expertise and enthusiasm with children in a fun and nurturing environment. All Schiff staff contribute to development of our curriculum and often develop their own electives, such as Artists of the Forests or Actors in the Woods.

All Schiff staff are required to attend pre-summer training. The training covers safety, code of conduct, parent communication procedures and changes in program and curriculum. All instructors have current First Aid and/or CPR certifications.

Our Policies

We ask for your help in upholding and respecting the following Schiff Summer Nature Program policies.

Refunds

A \$40 non-refundable deposit was included with your payment. In the event that you need to cancel your child's reservation, we ask that you contact us as soon as possible. **Prior to May 15th**, your tuition will be refunded minus the deposit. **After May 15th**, the full tuition will be forfeited. If space permits, we will gladly switch sessions with no additional fee.

Though we always strive to help children learn from their mistakes and work through problems, it is not always in the best interest of the child or those around him/her to remain in a program. The Schiff Summer Nature Program reserves the right to dismiss any child from the program if his/her conduct is dangerous, destructive, or if he/she poses a threat to self or others. In the event of such a dismissal, no refund shall be granted.

Health Forms & Health

Any child that does not have a health form on file will not be permitted to attend his/her session until a health form is received.

Please be considerate of others and keep your child home if he/she has a fever, runny nose, bad cough/cold symptoms, diarrhea, sore throat, ear-ache, pink eye (conjunctivitis) or a rash. If your child arrives at Schiff and exhibits any signs of illness, you will be asked to take them home.

Emergency Procedures

The instructors are certified in Community First Aid and CPR and will handle minor injuries and illnesses on site. In the event that your child requires outside care, we will attempt to contact you first to update you on the situation. If we cannot contact you, we will attempt to contact the emergency contact person listed on your child's health form. If we still cannot make contact, your signature on the health form will act as permission to seek appropriate medical care. Our primary outside care facility is Morristown Memorial Hospital. You will be responsible for any bills incurred by such an event.

Communication

Strong communication between families and camp staff is essential to the safety and success of our program. Parents are asked to contact us immediately in the event of an absence, any health or safety concern or any change in the child's health. We also encourage families to talk to our instructors and counselors regularly.

Schiff Nature Center (973)543-6004

Tanya Sulikowski, Executive Director
Cell Phone Number (973) 647-9903

Arrival and Departure

Session times are as follows; mornings 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., afternoons 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Participants should meet/be picked up from the Schiff Nature Center at the beginning/end of each session. Outside of these hours you are responsible for your child. Please be considerate to our instructors and counselors by adhering to the session drop-off and pick-up times. *A late-pickup fee of one dollar per minute will be assessed for those parents who do not pick up their child by 12:35 p.m. for the morning session or 5:05 p.m. for the afternoon session.*

If your child will be absent for the day, we would appreciate a phone call so we do not wait for them to begin our lesson. Please call the Schiff Nature Center main number to report any absences (973)543-6004.



Please remember that parking along the driveway and failing to observe the 15-mph speed limit creates dangerous situations for other visitors and our wildlife. Speeding creates a dangerous situation for our critters. Chipmunks, snakes, toads, foxes, deer and turkeys are often seen along the driveway. Remember that their safety is important too! Carpooling is also encouraged to minimize the traffic flow during arrival and departure times. If you are interested in carpooling, please contact us and we will try to assist you in finding other interested families.