

# Assistant Naturalist Program

## What is an Assistant Naturalist?

This year the Assistant Naturalist Program, formerly Junior Counselor Program, has grown! Now becoming an Assistant Naturalist is a year-round youth conservation leadership club. Students entering grades 8-12 will enjoy conservation experiences and share them with others. Students will complete volunteer projects, meet conservation professionals, meet new people with common interests, learn natural history, and spread their enthusiasm to kids at summer camp by taking leadership roles.

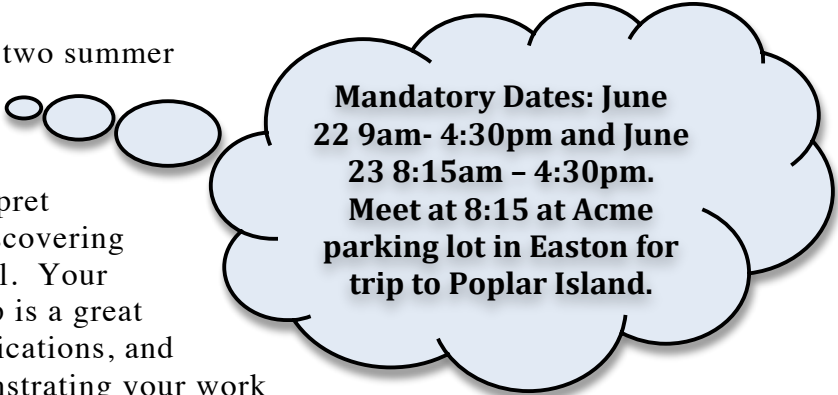
A variety of events are scheduled April through August 2010 that Assistant Naturalists may attend if they interest you, including volunteering at one or more weeks of summer camp. Once you register, call Kelsey to sign yourself, your friends, and your family up for Assistant Naturalist events. This season's special highlights include spring frog migration, field trip to Blackwater national wildlife refuge, field trip to Dupont Nature Center in Delaware to see horseshoe crabs, field trip to Poplar Island by boat, monitoring wood duck boxes for eggs or owls, canoe trip at Tuckahoe state park, and much more! See the attached calendar of events for details.

The challenge and responsibility of being an Assistant Naturalist starts with having the right attitude, an interest in learning new things about the natural history that surrounds you, and a passion to share that positive energy and knowledge with others.

Over the summer Assistant Naturalists will join a camp group and support the teachings, positive attitude, and group management style of their counselor. Assistant Naturalists will contribute ideas to activity planning, help keep their group in order, lead activities, songs, games, or crafts, and be a positive role model for their campers. Becoming an Assistant Naturalist is a serious role in which you will learn to work with children in the outdoors and contribute to the environmental mission of an Audubon Center.

In order to participate you must attend our two summer camp training days: June 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

We will spend time during our two training sessions practicing nature themed games and activities, learning how to interpret natural history to summer campers, and discovering what it means to be a leader and role model. Your training in addition to your service at camp is a great experience to put on resumes, college applications, and write about in college essays. After demonstrating your work ethic, responsibility and enthusiasm for the Assistant Naturalist experience you will receive a performance review from the directors and counselors to guide you towards future improvement and excellence. After witnessing your merit at camp, we hope to be a useful reference and mentor for your future endeavors and continue working with you through camp and other PCAC programs.



**Mandatory Dates: June 22 9am- 4:30pm and June 23 8:15am - 4:30pm. Meet at 8:15 at Acme parking lot in Easton for trip to Poplar Island.**

Program Cost: \$100 Includes all Assistant Naturalist Events (does not include public programs), EcoCamp participation for one or more weeks, and 100% organic cotton EcoCamp t-shirt.

## **Assistant Naturalist responsibilities for EcoCamp:**

1. **Support Counselor:** Your primary duty is to help your counselor. You will be expected to help prepare materials, monitor the campers, be a role model of good behavior, and lead activities throughout the day.
2. **100% appropriate behavior:** We will monitor your behavior and performance while you are at camp. You will be given an evaluation including your hours at the end of the summer. If you are not meeting the basic responsibilities listed here, you may not receive credit for all hours.
3. **Volunteer Service:** You must complete eight hours of volunteer service at Pickering Creek before June 19th, 2010. If you bring family members to a volunteer event, their hours can count towards your total of 8. You need to keep track of your own hours and report them to the director once all 8 are completed. Your volunteer hours before and at camp can be used as service learning hours. Your service learning forms must be completed before we can sign them.
4. **Early Arrival & Late Departure:** Arrive at camp at least 15 minutes before each day begins and plan to stay at least 15 minutes after your camp session ends. You will meet with your counselor every day after camp to discuss the day and prepare for the next.
5. **Appropriate professional dress:** Camp t-shirt on the first and last day of each camp week. Appropriate **t-shirts** on other days. Professional looking shorts. Under garments covered at all times including when sitting or stretching. If bathing suits are required torsos will be covered at all times by suits or cover-ups (so bring extra wet clothes). Close toed and close heeled shoes for walking and running (sneakers, hiking boots, crocs, or keens).

## **Equipment List for EcoCamp and other AN Events:**

Please dress for outside activity. Clothing should be able to get dirty and keep you warm/cool and dry. Please do not bring anything to camp that you are afraid of losing.

### **The following items should be brought to camp each day:**

- ☆ Refillable water bottle
- ☞ Hat or cap
- ☛ Sunscreen & insect repellent (lotion preferred)
- Healthy lunch and lots of snacks in reusable containers
- ☂ Raingear (poncho, rain jacket)
- ☆ Good shoes for hiking and running

**We ask that campers and ANs do not bring i-pods or other electronic toys to camp.**

## **Important Notice Regarding Insect Stings**

Any child or adult attending Pickering Creek Audubon Center or its educational programs who has a known allergy to insect stings should have their own emergency insect bite medications including Benadryl and an Epi-Pen. For their own protection, they must be able to administer its contents to themselves, and must provide a written statement from their physician stating that they are personally able to use the Epi-Pen for themselves without assistance. Pickering Creek Audubon Center and the National Audubon Society cannot accept any responsibility for administering medications or for the effects of using them.

## **Assistant Naturalist Registration Checklist**

- Read Assistant Naturalist Program Information and Calendar
- Check required dates and mark on calendar (June 22, June 23)
- Call Kelsey to make sure there are still spaces left (max of 15)
- Complete Application thoughtfully

- Complete Medical History Forms
- Mail Application, Medical History Forms, and Check for \$100 to Kelsey Frey, 11450 Audubon Lane, Easton, MD 21601. Make check payable to Pickering Creek Audubon Center.
- Put dates of events on your calendar and call or email Kelsey to register for each event: kfrey@pickeringcreek.org, 410-822-4903. (know the number of people you're bringing)
- Join AN facebook group to keep up to date! "Assistant Naturalists of PCAC" (optional)
- Convince a friend to join with you! (Space is limited to 15. Please register ASAP!)

### **Pickering Creek Audubon Center EcoCamp 2010 \*YOUR COPY\***

There is camp each week from June 28 through Aug 19. Weeks are 4 or 5 days long. The camp weeks can also be found on the AN calendar.

### **Grades K-1: Fledglings**

Each session campers will explore the outdoors through active games, nature crafts, songs, hands-on discoveries with wildlife, and short walks.

[ ] **Tues July 6- Fri July 9**, 9am-12pm, \$120

[ ] **Tues July 6- Fri July 9**, 1pm- 4pm, \$120

[ ] **Tues Aug 3- Fri Aug 6**, 9am-12pm, \$120

[ ] **Tues Aug 3- Fri Aug 6**, 1pm- 4pm, \$120

(Material will repeat in the morning and afternoon session.)

### **Grades 2-4: Larks**

Each week campers will explore their wildlife theme, canoe, hike and play throughout the wildlife preserve, and seine for aquatic wildlife in Pickering Creek.

[ ] **Mon June 28- Fri July 2**, 9am- 4pm, \$180

*The Animal Kingdom: Investigate different animal groups each day. Mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, fish, and insects.*

[ ] **Mon July 12- Fri July 16**, 9am- 4pm, \$180, transportation available

*Crafty Creatures: Compare animal and human craftiness as we investigate ways animals build homes, find food, and escape predators. Connect with your inner-craftiness by doing art projects.*

[ ] **Mon July 26- Fri July 30**, 9am- 4pm, \$180, transportation available

*Nature Up Close: Investigate parts of nature that are easily overlooked. Use microscopes to investigate water and soil samples. Use binoculars to see into the trees, and magnifying glasses to look at creatures. Explore unique traits of animal feathers and fur and insect adaptations. Practice macro photography.*

[ ] **Mon Aug 9- Fri Aug 13**, 9am- 4pm, \$180, transportation available

*Science in Nature: Investigate the environment from a scientific perspective. Use microscopes, dissect owl pellets, make spore prints from mushrooms, conduct a turtle race and more.*

[ ] **Mon Aug 16- Thurs Aug 19**, 9am- 4pm, \$160

*The Animal Kingdom: Investigate different animal groups each day. Mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, fish, and insects.*

### **Grades 5-7: Shrikes**

Each week campers will canoe, play games in canoes, use GPS units to go geo-caching, hike and play games throughout the wildlife preserve, go fishing, and seine for aquatic wildlife in Pickering Creek.

[ ] **Tues July 20- Fri July 23**, 9am- 4pm, \$160

[ ] **Tues Aug 3- Fri Aug 6**, 9am- 4pm, \$160

## Pickering Creek Audubon Center Assistant Naturalist Application April- August 2010

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Current age and Grade next fall: \_\_\_\_\_

Best way to contact: phone [ ] Daytime Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

email [ ] Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive upcoming public program emails: Twice a year [ ] Monthly [ ] No, thanks. [ ]

Please answer the following as thoughtfully and detailed as possible. **Use a sheet of scrap paper for more space.** Thank you!

Previous Pickering Creek Experience:

Extra-curricular Activities (sports, volunteering, music, camp):

What is your dream career and why? Or what are some career choices you are considering?

Why are you interested in being an Assistant Naturalist? What do you expect to gain from this experience?

What do you enjoy about being outdoors? What do you currently do outdoors?

Please rate your interests in the following on a scale of 1 to 5.

1: I am not interested.

2: I am a little interested.

3: I am about as interested as I am in watching movies.

4: I'm pretty interested in this.

5: I'm very interested and excited to learn about this.

\_\_\_\_\_ Natural History (plants, animals, and the environment)

\_\_\_\_\_ Leadership (being a positive role model, leading activities at camp)

\_\_\_\_\_ Outdoor skills (canoeing, fire making, hiking)

\_\_\_\_\_ Teamwork (team-building activities, working closely with others)

\_\_\_\_\_ Crafts and Creativity (art, music, singing, crafting)

Please return application along with camp registration forms to Kelsey Frey, camp director, 11450 Audubon Lane, Easton, MD 21601. [kfrey@pickeringcreek.org](mailto:kfrey@pickeringcreek.org). 410/822-4903 x22, Fax 410/822-5041