

August 2010

High Park Nature Centre

High Park Nature Centre
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Fall Programs

With the first of August came the back-to-school commercials. We're already thinking about fall. In particular, about our awesome fall programs for kids!

If you would like to enroll your child in one of our fall programs, please visit www.highparknaturecentre.com/programs/programs-for-kids-and-families/ to download the registration form.

Knee-High Naturalists Ages 3 - 5
A session: September 21, October 5, 19, November 2, 16 and 30 \$75 each child
B session: September 28, October 12, 26, November 9, 23 and December 7
 Both big and small explorers will have fun exploring High Park! Curiosity for the natural world will spark exploration, play and discovery. *Younger siblings are welcome, but hikes are not stroller accessible.*

Saturday Morning Club Ages 6 - 8
 October 2, 16, 30, November 13, 27 and December 11 \$85 each child
 What does a trillium look like? Why do chickadees sing their own name? How many different kinds of snowflakes there are? How many different bird species nest in High Park? Why do leaves change color in the fall? Where do butterflies go in the winter? Join us to discover and play.

Ramblers Hiking Club Ages 8 - 12
 September 25, October 9, 23, November 6, 20 and December 4 \$85 each child
 Learn how to use a map and compass to find your way around High Park! Explore the different habitats of High Park. We use all of our senses to learn about and appreciate nature in fun and engaging ways. Children will determine their own hiking route and theme each week.

Tuesdays in the Woodlands with Jon Ages 8 - 12
 October 5, 12, 19, 26, November 2 and 9 \$75 each child
 This after-school program is all about hands-on exploration of High Park. Adventures will include bird-watching, tree identification, pond studies, story-telling, tasting edible nature and photography.

Registration for fall programs will start on Thursday, August 19th at 8 am. You will need to be at the Nature Centre at that time in order to register your child(ren). Programs are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Since we appreciate that not all families are able to attend registration day, there are some other options:

- Mail or drop-off your form and payment in advance. These forms are dealt with only after all in-person registrations have been completed, usually at the end of registration day.
- You can send another person in your place to register your child(ren). This person may only register the children in a single family sharing the same address. This policy is in place to prevent a single person from registering several children from several families. We will not make exceptions to this policy.

We look forward to seeing some new—and old—faces at registration on August 19th.



Thank You: Toronto Field Naturalists



Toronto Field Naturalists has committed to funding the Nature Centre with a very generous donation of \$25,000. We hope that this is the very beginning of a relationship that will allow us to partner with TFN in a number of ways, including programming.

profit organization stimulates public interest in natural history and encourages the preservation of our natural heritage.

Toronto Field Naturalists exists with no paid staff and counts on the work and annual fees of its volunteer members. You can become a member of the Toronto Field Naturalists; learn more by visiting www.torontofieldnaturalists.org/v-membership.htm.

With this funding, the Nature Centre will be expanding on our Nature Awareness Lecture Series and after-school programs. We will also be developing a youth mentorship program!

Members of TFN receive newsletters that detail the numerous guided walks that TFN members host throughout the year; some walks are shared with the public, including an upcoming walk on the Lost Rivers of the Portlands area of Toronto: www.torontofieldnaturalists.org/v-walks.htm.

The Toronto Field Naturalists have been promoting a love of nature in Toronto since 1923. This charitable, non-

Ever wonder how the Nature Centre staff and volunteers spend their free time? Here's just a short list!

- Gleaning urban fruit trees with Not Far From the Tree: <http://www.notfarfromthetree.org>
- Walking through the Don River Valley, making sure to stop at the Evergreen Brick Works: <http://ebw.evergreen.ca>
- Cooking up delicious meals with food we grow ourselves or buy at local markets: <http://tfmn.ca>
- Bird banding at the Tommy Thompson Park Bird Research Station: <http://www.ttpbrs.ca>
- Attending workshops and talks hosted by the Toronto Entomologists' Association <http://www.ontarioinsects.org>

Wild in the City Family Nature Walks

Thanks to funding from the **Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation**, we will once again be offering a number of family nature walks throughout the summer. For complete details, visit the High Park Nature Centre Facebook page or download the flyer at <http://www.highpark.org/Family%20Nature%20Walks%202010.pdf>

Hikes are not wheelchair or stroller accessible

NO PRE-REGISTRATION NECESSARY

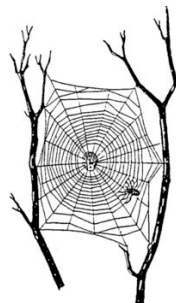
Location: High Park Nature Centre
430 Parkside Drive

All Ages: Bring the Whole Family!

Fee: Free of Charge!

More Info:
416-392-1748 ext. 2
naturecentre@highpark.org

Awesome Nature



Nature is powerful. We will be exploring some of the super heroes of our High Park habitats. From the strength of spider webbing to the amount of water a willow sucks up daily. Our flora and fauna do things that will amaze you.

Meet at the High Park Nature Centre

Wild Edibles

August 17
1—3 pm

Late summer is a season of plenty in High Park. Learn what is and is not edible for people at the end of summer and how to taste it safely. We may be sampling wild raspberries, wild grapes, dandelion, acorns and many other trailside delicacies.

Meet at the High Park Nature Centre

August 31
1—3 pm



Party at the Nature Centre

Have your next party at the Nature Centre!

With themes like **Nature Believe it or Not!** and **Nature's Art Party**, Nature Centre parties are a great way to celebrate your child's birthday with a low-key, nature-centered theme.

We provide the programming, non-disposable dishes, cutlery, cloth napkins and after-party clean-up. You provide the kids and any food.

The reasonable price of \$250 includes:

- 2.5 hour rental, including 2 hours of party time and 30 minutes for set-up
- 1.5 hours of nature-themed programming with a Nature Interpreter (45 minutes interpretation and crafts, 45 minutes outdoor nature hike, games etc.) and 30 minutes of time for food, cake, etc. .
- Maximum 15 children—*Additional children can be booked at a rate of \$10 per child to a maximum of 20 children.

- use of a complete set of dishes, cutlery and cloth napkins (please do not bring disposable plates and cutlery)

Need more time? \$75 per additional hour of programming with a Nature Interpreter and \$25 per additional hour of building rental only

Visit

www.highparknaturecentre.com/birthday-parties for more information and a full list and descriptions of the various themes available.

Friends of High Park

Thanks again to all the "Friends of High Park" for their patience and feedback with the membership renewals process. If you are a "Friend of High Park" and haven't received your membership renewal notice or are just unsure of your membership status please feel free to check with us (HPI.secretary@highpark.org). The "Friends of High Park" membership program is an excellent way to: offer support to the HPI and the Nature Centre; provide direction to the board of directors; and participate in our Annual General Meeting (October 21st, 2010). To learn more about the program, please visit us at www.highpark.org and click on the "Friends of High Park" link.

Youth Gone Wild!

In an orchard there should be enough to eat, enough to lay up, enough to be stolen, and enough to rot on the ground.

- James Boswell



In our last newsletter, we made some suggestions for the different ways that adults can explore High Park.

We don't yet have programs available for those youth aged 13 and up who are still interested in stewardship and exploration of High Park, but we hope to develop something in the near future with this age-range in mind.

We do have some recommendations for programs for youth who are looking

for new and different challenges.

Nature Guardians is a program of Ontario Nature aimed at kids and teens. Their Young Naturalist Clubs are located throughout Ontario. Visit <http://www.ontarionature.org/connect/childreneyouth/index.php> for more information.

Project Canoe focuses on building leadership skills in the outdoor environment, using wilderness canoe trips in the summer

and various trips—including a visit to the High Park Nature Centre—throughout the winter. Programs are suited to ages 13—18 and start with 5 and 8 -day canoe trips. More information can be found here: <http://www.canoe.org/>

We hope to develop programs for teens and youth in the near future, but in the meantime, check out these other organizations.

The Nature Centre is part of the High Park Initiatives, a not-for-profit charity dedicated to the protection, preservation, restoration and respect of High Park's natural environment.