

# Preschool Peep

## Hartley Nature Center Teacher Newsletter

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### A First Peep at Nature

Greetings preschool teachers and childcare providers! We'd like to invite you and your preschool-aged children on a field trip to Hartley Nature Center. This Preschool Peep newsletter is made just for you, to highlight the variety of classes we offer specifically for early childhood groups.

Scamper with squirrels, hoot with owls, stomp in puddles and stop to smell the flowers. Our trained educators take advantage of a preschooler's natural sense of wonder to provide opportunities to see, hear, smell, touch and play in the great outdoors. Classes are 1 to 1½ hours long. Most field trips begin indoors to introduce our topic before heading outside for activities, games, and a walk through the park. Planning to bring your lunch or snack? Classrooms are available inside, and picnic tables outside.

Alternative indoor activities stressing the same themes and concepts will be implemented during inclement weather. However, HNC reserves the right to cancel your program in the case of *especially* inclement weather.



### We can come to you!

Hartley educators can hit the road and teach most of our programs at your school or center. Please call for more info.

### Scholarships Available

HNC can pay a portion of the costs for groups that utilize commercial transportation. These funds are limited; first come, first served. Please inquire when making reservations as to availability of funds. After making a reservation, you will be asked to contact the busing company for an estimation of transportation costs. Transportation scholarships can be combined with program scholarships.

*\*Groups under 20 students can receive up to \$50 towards transportation costs.*

*\*Groups over 20 students can receive up to \$100 towards transportation costs.*

**Program Scholarships** to cover a portion of the program fees are also available for Head Start classes. Please call for details.

### Additional Preschooler Programs

**Nature Nook:** weekly program on Mondays at 10-11:30; open to the public just for children ages 2-5 and an accompanying adult.

**Hartley Halfpints:** 3-day summer camps for 3 year olds with fun themes like Sticks & Stones and Pond Play.

# Early Childhood Class Offerings

**Animal Detectives** transforms students into observant detectives of the woods to explore footprints, holes, fur and more as they discover signs of animal life.

**Eager Beavers** shows your students just what's so cool about beavers! A puppet show will teach students about life in the beaver pond and an exploration hike will bring us close to real beaver signs in Hartley Park.

**Bird Buddies** gives students a chance to hear and learn bird calls and silly bird behavior. Students learn how to observe live birds and act out bird behavior using props, songs and games.

**A Bug's Life** puts sweep nets and magnifying glasses in the hands of junior bug scientists as we turn over logs and sweep the grasses in search of insects and more.

**Getting Squirrelly** uses one of our most interesting and common critters to learn about what animals need to stay alive. Students look for "lunch spots," nests and our resident squirrels.

**Trees are Terrific** sends students into the forest where they'll examine parts of trees, act like a tree, play like squirrels, and toss and sort leaves.

**Pollination Station** demonstrates how plants grow, bloom and make seeds. Take a scavenger hunt while inspecting flowers, parachuting pollen, or maybe planting seeds.

**Ponds, Puddles & Polliwogs** brings students to the pond's edge with rubber boots, nets and buckets. Catch and be amazed by young dragonflies, fairy shrimp, frogs and other watery critters.

**Whooo are Owls?** will give students a chance to see an owl mount up close, feel owl feathers, hear owl calls and hoot out to our special and mysterious owl friends in the forest.

**Snowshoeing** Extra-small snowshoes (down to age 2) allow students to creep into the winter wonderland with paw-like feet and explore footprints, animal holes, fur and more as they discover signs of animal life.

*(Additional \$2/student snowshoe fee)*

**Nature Play** is an opportunity for children to engage in Hartley's nature playscape, a playground made of natural elements including water. You will be welcomed by HNC staff who will provide a brief introduction to nature play, with the remaining time staffed by your teachers. This field trip takes place completely outdoors; children and adults should dress for the weather!

## Rates

Program	Details	Cost
Early Childhood Program at HNC	1-1.5 hours in length	\$60 minimum charge (up to 12 students) \$5/child for group larger than 12 students
Nature Play in HNC Playscape	1-1.5 hours in length	\$20 minimum charge (up to 10 students) \$2/child for group larger than 10 students

## Outreach Pricing

Program at your site	1-1.5 hours in length	Within 15 miles	One classroom	\$85
			Two classrooms (back to back)	\$145
		Within 30 miles	One classroom	\$110
			Two classrooms (back to back)	\$170

