

Spring 2014

Philadelphia Parks and Recreation Outdoor Recreation Experiences



**PHILADELPHIA
PARKS &
RECREATION**

Compiled by Lindsay Deal:
AmeriCorps VISTA
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FOX CHASE FARM OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES MAPLE SUGARING AND SHEEP SHEARING - SPRING 2014



Every spring, Fox Chase Farm in Northwest Philadelphia invites recreation center after-school programs to come and learn about sheep shearing and maple sugaring. Maple sugaring activities include watching the making of maple syrup, eating maple candy and sampling pancakes with pure maple syrup. Sheep shearing participants learn about the process wool goes through to become yarn. During both programs there are games, crafts and other learning activities. Maple sugaring happens annually in March and Sheep Shearing in April.



HONEY BEES OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES AT THE WISSAHICKON ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER – MAY 2014



Wissahickon Environmental Center's Thursday Tots were treated to a presentation by Beekeeper, Chelsea Heck. Thirteen children, ages 3-5, along with their parents visited on May 15, 2014. Chelsea taught the children about bees, and opened up the hives so they could see the inside of a hive, and let the children try on a beekeeper suit. Chelsea is responsible for maintaining several of the hives at the Tree House. Thursday Tots meet once a month at the Tree House.



MOMMY & ME OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES AT PENNYPACK ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER – YEAR ROUND



Wednesdays at Pennypack Environmental Center are filled with fun for Mommy & Me! Moms, Dads, Grands, and Caretakers are invited to bring their children to learn about topics like farms, forests, hibernation, camouflage and more! Each session includes songs, crafts, and a short nature walk outside. Programming is for children ages 12-36 months. Mommy & Me happens year round on Wednesdays every other month.



DISC GOLF AT SEDGLEY PARK OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES WITH FERKO PLAYGROUND – MAY 2014



In May of 2014 youth at Ferko Playground learned the sport of disc golf with two lessons taught at Ferko. Then they took a trip to Sedgley Woods to play on an official course. A group of 10 after school children, aged 6-12, and two counselors, had a fun afternoon of playing on Sedgley Woods' 27 hole course located in Fairmount Park. The disc golf course is FREE and open year round. This is a wonderful space that can be utilized by recreation participants for outdoor activities. Talks are underway to develop a mini course at Ferko. This would serve those living in the Tookany-Tacony Frankford Watershed region.



THE CLAY STUDIO “CLAYMOBILE” OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES WITH MANDER PLAYGROUND – MAY 2014



For 2 hours a week over 9 weeks, the Clay Studio’s “Claymobile” outreach program visited Mander Playground. A group of 20 after school students each constructed 5-6 projects to create a dinner set using clay. Students went on nature walks to collect and incorporate natural materials in their clay projects. Students also learned about the environment and sustainability through this program.



NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES AT FERKO PLAYGROUND – JUNE 2014



Youth at Ferko Playground experienced the outdoors through a lens with photography instructor Lindsay Deal. A group of 6 children, ages 8-12, participated in a two part nature photography workshop on June 3 and July 10 2014. For two hours over two weeks, she taught the children the basics of photography during hikes in nearby Tacony Creek Park.



CELEBRATE MUD DAY OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES AT PENNYPACK ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER – JUNE 2014



Philadelphia Parks & Recreation's Grow Up Green Program held a "Celebrate Mud" day on Thursday June 26, 2014 at Pennypack Environmental Center. About 35 participants played in the "mud kitchen", made mud hand prints and artwork at the mud art tables, and just had fun sitting and playing in the mud pools. Parents of participants remarked this activity was perfect for this age group and would love to see more programming like this.



SISTER CITIES PARK OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES CHILDREN AND NATURE - JUNE THRU AUGUST 2014

Story Art and Grow-Up Green



At Sister Cities Park June through August 2014 Philadelphia Parks and Recreation and the Free Library of Philadelphia presents Story Art and Grow-Up Green. Children ages 4-6, either with their family and caregivers or as part of a local camp program, enjoy a nature-inspired story and crafts. Topics include turtles, frogs, trees, tracks and more! Story Art is every Monday from 10:30am -11:30am and Grow-Up Green is every Wednesday from 10:30am -11:30am.



GROW-UP GREEN NATURE LESSONS – SPRING AND SUMMER 2014



Grow-Up green is a program that teaches nature lessons once a week to eight Parks and Recreation tot recreation groups in Philadelphia. These children are ages 3-5. Weekly lesson topics include hibernation, squirrels, bees, and more. Children participate in activities like nature walks, planting, crafts, bird watching and exploring the natural world around their recreation centers. Often, parents participate with their children.

