



Silver Bay Photo: Annie Tiberio Cameron

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2009 Family Nature Summit Registrations:

- 149 adults
- 18 young adults (age 18-25)
- 35 teens (age 13-18)
- 18 Junior Naturalists (age 5-12)
- 8 Early Discovery (age 3-4)
- 0 Infant
- Including 24 Yellow Scarfers

Total participants: 228

These numbers were current as of April 16, 2009.

Be sure to keep encouraging your friends and family to attend!

Quick Links

[Family Nature Summits Website](#)

[Silver Bay YMCA](#)

[2009 Summit Book Club Choices](#)

[Silver Bay YMCA Virtual Tour](#)

Closing Quote:

"Hope is like a bird that senses the dawn and carefully starts to sing while it is still dark." - Unknown

Volunteer at the Family Nature Summit



This is Carla Brown, your web and e-newsletter volunteer.

As you may know, Family Nature Summits is a volunteer-run organization. We keep costs down in these tough economic times because lots of special people step up.

Today I introduce Rosanne Mistretta, a science teacher who lives in Jenkintown, Pennsylvania. She has offered to coordinate volunteers for the 2009 Summit. Wonderful! So be sure to contact her!

Also please volunteer for our new event - a green lifestyles evening on Monday July 27 at the same time as the square dance.

One more reminder: Please make reservations at [Silver Bay](#) before the end of April. The Family Nature Summits have a block of premium rooms reserved until May 1. After that, the rooms are opened to non-Summiters.

Be a Summit Volunteer!

By Rosanne Mistretta, Volunteer Coordinator

As you probably know, volunteers are an extremely important part of a successful Summit. The Summit exists because volunteers donate their time. **When you volunteer at the Summit, you feel more connected to participants and staff and make a lot of new friends!**

The board is committed to making volunteering at the Summit interesting and rewarding. **That's why we are instituting a new tradition of volunteer recognition at the Silver Bay Summit!** As a volunteer you may receive the following benefits:

- an orange scarf which designates you as a Summit volunteer
- an invitation to you and your family to attend the opening day brunch, along with faculty and staff members

We're also making signing up for volunteering painless! If you indicated that you would like to volunteer in some way, you'll be getting a call or email from me so we can personally talk about how much and in what role you would like to volunteer.

What important volunteer roles can you fill at the 2009 Summit? Here are a few of the roles:

- Van drivers and backup coordination of vans
- Boat and/or golf cart shuttle driver
- Set up, staff and break down the Summit store
- "Ambassadors" to help new Summiters and others

We also would like to tap into the varied talents of all Summiters. What volunteer role interests you? Do you have experience with marketing, public relations, photography, computers, crafts etc? It's likely we can find a volunteer role for you!

Right now you are probably thinking "But I just want to take advantage of the course offerings, I don't want to miss anything!". **Volunteering doesn't have to be a long commitment - it can be an afternoon, an evening, or time spent on opening or closing day.** It is up to you - you can choose your level of volunteerism. Any questions? Email me at volunteer@familysummits.org or call me at 215-266-5046.

[Volunteer at the New Green Lifestyles Evening](#)

At the 2009 Summit, we are trying a new idea. On the same evening as the square dance, we will have a green lifestyles evening. There will be green stations where you can:

- try a green activity,
- make a green craft,
- ask questions from a volunteer,
- share and pledge to undertake green choices.

We need volunteers to make this happen! You probably want to dance as well, so we are looking for people to take shifts (depending on how many volunteers we get). Please contact volunteer@familysummits.org today!

(The [green lifestyles stations](#) are tentative. If you want to volunteer, and you have a different keen green interest, let us know and we'll try to develop a station based on that topic!)

Do You Need a Lift from Albany Airport?



We have arranged for transportation to and from Albany airport on Saturday July 25 and Friday July 31 using luxury motor coaches.

The charge to take the coach is \$25 per adult and \$15 for participants under 19 years old each way. We need to start to schedule the coaches now, so if you are interested in this service, please send your flight information indicating airline, flight number, arrival time, names and ages of passengers to logistics@familysummits.org by May 15. Logistics coordinator Carl Brown will use this information to best accommodate everyone.

Golf Carts Planned for Summit



And here's some more fun transportation news:

As a special service for Summiters with mobility challenges, we will offer shuttle service with two golf carts at Silver Bay.

Reminder: "New" Summitter Discount Offer

Remember - if you are inviting friends and family who have not attended in the past two years, they can receive \$25 off each person's program fees.

The offer is also available for Summiters who have not attended a Summit in the past two years. We are extending this discount through April 30, 2009.

[Sign up for the 2009 Family Nature Summit today!](#)

Postcard Mailed to Past Participants



This month, the Summit board tried an experiment, which was to send a postcard to past Summit participants, encouraging them to register for Silver Bay.

Thank you to volunteer Sara Jackson for designing this beautiful card! It encouraged 8 people to sign up in the first week and generated lots of

traffic to the Family Nature Summits website.

Will You Be Our Friend?



For those who enjoy the Facebook social network, please consider [joining the Family Nature Summits group](#). We have 25 members so far.

Teen and young adult participants are welcome to join the "official" group but we know they have their own Facebook Summit groups as well!