

PRESS RELEASE

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Planning Now for Summer Vacation?

Letting Nature Bring Families and Folks Together

February 7, 2007 (Waltham, MA) As we settle into winter our thoughts are turning to summer vacation planning. Imagine a week of summer fun, focused on the sights and sounds of nature, where program choices abound for everyone in the family. Imagine exciting activities and adventures for all ages, all interest levels, attention spans, levels of outdoor experience, or familiarity with Mother Nature. During the day, youngsters join others in their age group for fun activities lead by experienced environmental educators, while adults can choose from a wide variety of classes, crafts, hikes and field trips. Afternoons and evenings offer opportunities for families and friends to join together for many organized and impromptu activities. This is the Family Nature Summit, providing a week of environmental education and adventure for just \$215 to \$500 per person for the week, depending on the age group. Lodging starts at \$250 per person for the week, including three meals a day! Kids under 6 stay free.

The Blue Ridge Assembly, tucked in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains, will host the 2007 Family Nature Summit from August 4-10. This full-service conference center is situated on 1,200 acres of woodland beautified by mountain streams, wildflowers, ridges, valleys and spectacular views. It is placed in a beautiful cove between two heavily forested ridges of the Swannanoa mountain range. The Assembly area is bordered by two swiftly flowing creeks that run parallel to each other. From this site, we will enjoy incomparable views of the Craggy and Black Mountain ranges to the north.

This week-long outdoor discovery program appeals to families, singles, and anyone who wants to explore unique natural areas, increase their environmental awareness, and learn from a variety of classes, hikes, field trips, workshops, crafts, lectures, and outfitted adventures...each geared toward their specific age group. Knowledgeable naturalists and dedicated educators bring the surroundings to life, and families have fun while building a lasting foundation of outdoor knowledge and environmental awareness.

- Sign up for activities such as hiking, rafting, fly fishing, rock climbing, rambles with naturalists and excursions.
- Learn to quilt, create tapestries or rag rugs, keep a field journal or paint a landscape.
- Choose from class topics such as: wildlife management, tracking, nature photography, bird watching, geology, plant ecology, astronomy, amphibians and butterfly identification.

After a full day of nature activities, you can enjoy the pristine setting of The Blue Ridge Assembly. Your family can go horseback riding, create innovative crafts or learn how to spot butterflies or take advantage of the on site recreation; which includes miles of hiking and nature trails, swimming, volleyball, and mountain biking.

More information and the program registration form for the Summit can be found at web site: www.familysummits.org , or by calling (949) 743-2567. Book now because this popular program fills up quickly!

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