



**THE PEGGY NOTEBAERT
NATURE MUSEUM**

The Museum of the Chicago Academy of Sciences

For more information, contact:

Lori Geller

Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

773/755-5108

lgeller@naturemuseum.org

SUMMER CAMPS HELP CHICAGO KIDS CONNECT WITH NATURE

CHICAGO (November 18, 2008) – The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum is pleased to announce its 2009 Summer Camp schedule for Chicagoland children ages 4 to 8. The two-week programs at the Museum are tailored to meet the needs, interests and schedules of children ages in the 4 to 8 age group, beginning July 6 and running through August 14.

Each Summer Camp session connects children to the wonders of nature through a unique combination of art, storytelling, movement, music, acting, hands-on science activities and live animal encounters all led by Nature Museum educators.

Campers can choose to attend one session or two back-to-back sessions during the summer. Camps also include a family open house or performance the last Thursday evening of each session.

Nature Museum Summer Camp fees start at \$365 and include a camp t-shirt, reusable lunch bag, and healthy daily snacks (campers provide their own lunch). Special discounts are available for Nature Museum members. See below for specific age group programming. For more information, visit www.naturemuseum.org, or e-mail camps@naturemuseum.org.

Four-Year Old Camps: Nature Explorers/Nature Detectives

These half-day camps give four-year old campers the opportunity to explore the nature in and around the Museum through fun and exciting activities based on a daily nature mystery (Nature Detectives) or theme (Nature Explorers). Aftercare from 1:30 to 3 p.m. is available for four-year-old campers making it easier for families to coordinate pick up with our camps for older children.

-MORE-

Summer Camps – Page Two

Five- & Six-Year Old Camps: Insects & Bugs/Reptiles & Amphibians/City Critters

Full day camps for ages five and six explore the Museum's live collections and the urban animals that call our outdoor exhibitions home through fun and exciting activities based on an animal of the day. The campers will take part in hands-on art, music, acting, and science activities related to the animal of the day.

Seven- & Eight-Year Olds: Wild Waterways/Academy Scientists

Wild Waterways is a two-week, full-day camp all about the water ecosystems of lakes, ponds, rivers and wetlands, complete with a canoe trip on the Chicago River with Chicago River Canoe and Kayak, along with visits to Lake Michigan and North Pond. Academy Scientists will teach campers about the exciting collections of the Chicago Academy of Sciences.

Dates & Times:

Nature Detectives, July 6 to 17, 2009 – Monday to Friday
Nature Explorers, July 20 to 31, 2009 – Monday to Friday
Camp Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. / Aftercare: 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Insects & Bugs, July 6 to 17, 2009 – Monday to Friday
City Critters, July 20 to 31, 2009 – Monday to Friday
Reptiles & Amphibians, August 3 to 14, 2009 – Monday to Friday
Camp Hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Academy Scientists, July 20 to 31, 2009 – Monday to Friday
Wild Waterways, August 3 to 14, 2009 – Monday to Friday
Camp Hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

About the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

Celebrating 150 years of science exploration and education, the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum is the public face of the Chicago Academy of Sciences, founded in 1857 as Chicago's first museum dedicated to educating Chicagoans about nature and science through the preservation and display of native specimens, classroom activities, and dissemination of scientific knowledge.

Today the Museum continues the Academy's tradition of research, conservation and education about nature in the Midwest through participatory exhibits and programs, educational outreach and ongoing scientific activity. Its collections, due to their age and type, are among the most important in the region. The Museum distinguishes itself through extensive involvement in schools and the opportunities it provides for visitors to experience nature up close.

As one of the city's best examples of eco-friendly building technology with its lush outdoor nature trails and habitat, green roof, solar panels, and natural light sources, the Museum engages visitors, especially urban dwellers, in new ways to connect with and preserve the natural world. Since its opening in 1999, the Museum has welcomed more than 1.3 million visitors and provides hands-on exhibits and programs to 65,000 students annually and trains and provides resources for more than 2,000 Chicago teachers.

###