



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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CONTACT: Jean Henshaw
Public Relations Specialist
Berks County Intermediate Unit
610-987-8423; jeahen@berksiu.org

Students Invited to Go High Tech as They Explore Nature *Free week-long program at Nolde Forest for high-achieving 5th-8th graders*

READING, PA – Berks County students with a love of the outdoors **and** technology should check out a free week-long summer enrichment program that will see them investigating Nolde Forest with the help of state-of-the-art technology – such as a global positioning system – while they learn to analyze findings and explore relationships in nature.

Sponsored by the Berks County Intermediate Unit, the program – called MyEARTH: Environmental Awareness: Research/Technology/Habitats – will be held August 3-7, 2009, and is open to high-achieving (Gifted and Talented Education – GATE) students in grades 5-8.

“The kids are going to get real close to nature as they hike on the forest’s trails,” said Marcelle McGhee, educational technology specialist. “They also will go high tech as they use geographic information system (GIS) technology and other cutting-edge tools in their exploration.”

Participants will collect data and learn how to examine environmental conditions. Students will create reports on their work by using digital multimedia tools (photos, audio, animation and video) and will showcase these presentations at week’s end.

MyEARTH students also will:

- Develop leadership skills
- Work with educational experts to help them analyze their findings
- Use scientific inquiry to problem solve by observation and collecting data
- Identify what can cause changes in nature
- Think critically about their impact on the environment

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MyEARTH/Nolde Forest Summer Program
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The program will be held from 9 a.m. to 3:40 p.m. each day at the Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center in Reading. MyEARTH is free, and lunch is included; the BCIU also will provide limited transportation to Nolde.

The deadline for submitting an application, as well as a recommendation from your school's guidance counselor or a teacher, is June 1. For more information and an application packet, contact McGhee at 610-987-8379 or via e-mail at marmcg@berksiu.org. Additional details and downloadable application and recommendation forms also may be found at www.berksiu.org/myearth.

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