



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FLANDERS NATURE CENTER & LAND TRUST OFFERS SUMMER SERIES
PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN BEGINNING JUNE 21
Discounts on program fees extended through June 15**

(Woodbury, CT) --- Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust offers summer series programs that emphasize natural experiences for students and respond to state and national initiatives to encourage children to stay active outdoors. More than 60 sessions for children ages 3 to 10 are offered throughout the summer at the Van Vleck Farm and Nature Sanctuary, 5 Church Hill Road, beginning June 21.

On Flanders' 200-acre campus of forest, field, farm and pond, children learn about nature, art, agriculture and ecology. Programs are led by Flanders' staff of experienced educators and naturalists.

Summer series include: Little Explorers for ages 3 to 5 --- children get their first introduction to nature and the environment, through hands-on activities, art projects, nature walks, stories, songs and outdoor play; Outdoor Adventurers for ages 5 to 10--- children build an appreciation for the environment through outdoor projects and games, including hiking, wilderness games, orienteering, animal identification, gardening and survival techniques; Farming Fun for ages 5 to 10 held at the North Barn--- children explore farm, field and pond environments and work closely with live farm animals and do real farm "chores" each day; Art Adventurers for ages 5 to 10--- children express their impressions of the natural environment in a wide range of artistic mediums, such as pen and ink, charcoal, watercolors, acrylic paints, papermaking and nature prints.

A new series is being offered this year: Food Fun for ages 5 to 10, which is taught by "Kids In The Kitchen." In the program, children learn to cook healthy meals, using summer

fruits, vegetables and herbs. They will also learn how to grow vegetables and herbs and will take home recipe cards and a diploma at the end of the session.

In addition, a short lunchtime series, the Garden Workshop, is offered for children ages 5 to 10, at which they eat a brown bag lunch brought from home in Flanders' garden, accompanied by storytelling and games.

Dianne Parmelee, Education Director for Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust commented on the importance of an outdoor summer program for children, "In today's technology-crammed lifestyle, kids spend more time indoors than any other generation. Well-documented effects of the sedentary lifestyle are shocking: obesity, behavior and learning disorders and the early onset of adult diseases, like diabetes. In every one of our programs, we reconnect kids and nature. We are committed to "environmentoring": building a child's enjoyment and appreciation of the natural world to foster a life-long dedication to conservation and earth stewardship."

Discounts are offered to students who register before June 15 and for multiple classes. Registration continues to the start of classes, depending on availability.

For more information on dates and costs and to register, visit Flanders' all-new website at www.flandersnaturecenter.org.

About Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust

Flanders Nature Center and Land Trust is a leader in the region in the conservation of open space and in the protection of valuable natural resources. Flanders became one of the first land trusts in the area in 1973, when it received its initial gift of land, the 6.5 acre Manville Kettle, located in the heart of Woodbury. Today, through direct ownership and conservation easements, Flanders manages more than 40 open-space properties, totaling more than 2,000 acres in Woodbury, Bethlehem, Middlebury and Southbury. These holdings include two popular nature preserves in Woodbury: the 200-acre Van Vleck Farm Sanctuary on Flanders Road and the 686-acre Whittemore Sanctuary on Route 64.