

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Hudson River Park Trust

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STATE LAUNCHES ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS TRAINING PROGRAM AT HUDSON RIVER PARK

***--Instructors get trained to teach 10-week session to elementary students
on water and fish ecology around New York City--***

NEW YORK, March 12, 2008 – As part of its efforts to teach New York City students the importance of protecting and respecting the environment, the Hudson River Park Trust is partnering with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in training educators who will develop and implement a curriculum as part of a special after school program known as "After School Conservation Club" (ASCC).

The training program will be held in Hudson River Park's Pier 84 education center. Environmental educators from NYSDEC will review materials and offer hands-on demonstrations, displaying the most effective teaching techniques. The training sessions began this past weekend and will continue on March 18 and 19.

"We are very excited to help facilitate education about the environment and our waterways," said Kerry Dawson, Vice President of Environment and Education at the Hudson River Park Trust, "Education is the primary tool in helping our youth understand and appreciate the ecological richness of our waterfront and we welcome any opportunity to contribute," added Lauren Donnelly, the Trust's Environmental Educator.

The mission of the ASCC program is to bring environmental education to inner-city elementary aged students. The 10-week spring session which begins this spring at various locations around the City including: PS 163 (Manhattan), PS 77 (Manhattan), PS 198 (Manhattan), the University Settlement Society in Manhattan, PS 64 (Bronx), The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families (CHCF) at PS 279 (Bronx), Mosholu Montefiore Community Center (Bronx), and Riverdale Neighborhood House (Bronx), and the Queens Community House.

During the spring sessions, students study water and fish ecology, focusing on what is in their specific watershed, the anatomy of local fishes, and how humans impact the water ecosystems around New York City. The spring stewardship project is also part of the session and focuses on creating habitat for local pollinators. This year's spring stewardship program will be geared around the continued maintenance of last year's butterfly garden.

After school sites are established through grants that United Neighborhood Houses and The After School Corporation receive. DEC provides materials and curriculum based on their state-wide Project Wild workshop and, the Hudson River Trust is pleased to be providing facilities.

About Hudson River Park Trust

Hudson River Park Trust is a partnership between New York State and City charged with the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the five-mile Hudson River Park.

As a public benefit corporation, the Trust is governed by a thirteen-member Board of Directors. We employ a focused, diverse staff with experience in parks, design, finance, public policy, operations and maintenance. We are governed by the Hudson River Park Act, a 1998 law that established both the park and its governing requirements.

One special aspect of the Trust is its fifty-member Advisory Council which plays an integral role in the park planning process. The Advisory Council is comprised of elected officials and representatives from the business, environmental and civic communities.

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