



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hike for Free at The Schuylkill Center

Philadelphia, PA—August 8, 2006—Enjoy nature and hiking for free at The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education! As of July 1st, the Center has relinquished its general admission fees, allowing guests to access the Center's various interactive exhibits, 340-acre grounds, and four miles of hiking trails at no cost.

The Schuylkill Center boasts a wide variety of activities for people of all ages to enjoy, including a Discovery Center with interactive exhibits, Bookstore, Environmental Art Gallery, seasonal Butterfly House, and Solar Panel Array.

All levels of hikers are welcome to use the Center's trails. Varying in difficulty, the trails lead guests through many habitats including forests, wetlands, and meadows. Common trees and shrubs include: hickory, tulip poplar, sassafras, ash, several kinds of oak and maple, blackberry, blueberry, and laurel. In addition, wildflowers can be found at the bottom of our cut stream ravines.

Although elusive and seldom seen, wildlife is in abundance at the Center. Mammals include deer, chipmunks, squirrels, mice, moles, foxes, opossums, skunks, raccoons, and groundhogs. Over 150 species of birds have been observed here. Frogs, toads, fish, nonpoisonous snakes and countless varieties of insects and other invertebrates are also found on the grounds.

As summer winds down, don't miss the opportunity to stop by the Center and experience the outdoors first-hand! The Center's Education Building, including Bookstore and public restrooms, is open Monday-Saturday, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm, and the trails are open seven days a week from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. The Center is located at 8480 Hagy's Mill Road, Philadelphia, PA 19128. Visit www.schuylkillcenter.org for more information.

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