

MEDIA RELEASE

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YOUNG NATURALIST PROGRAM OPENS NEW SEASON

The Nature Institute's "Knee-High Naturalists" to answer nature questions

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Godfrey, Ill – "Knee-High Naturalists" at The Nature Institute (TNI), located at 2213 South Levis Lane in Godfrey, Ill, will open this year on September 10th with two sessions to get children three to five years of age interested in the natural world around them. These kids and their parents are welcomed to participate in the upcoming dates for this educational program offered every second Wednesday of the month from now through April 2014.

TNI's "Knee-High Naturalists" is a program for those interested in giving their children a head start in learning about conservation and becoming ambassadors of their own backyards. This season's theme is "Questions about Nature". Students and their families are encouraged to stump the Naturalist with prepared questions and each session will offer answers to the popular questions like, "Where do insects go in the winter?" and "Why do caterpillars become butterflies?"

The first date will be Wednesday, September 10th with two sessions; morning session at 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and the afternoon session is 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is \$5 per child per session, which includes a snack, story, hands-on activities and a guided hike (as weather permits). Parents can sign up for all seven sessions in advance for \$25.

In this gathering, Knee-Highs learn to identify the difference between butterflies and moths and learn about metamorphosis. The discussion will then head outside to TNI trails where students will identify these insects in the wild.

There are only ten spots available for each session and registration is required no later than the Friday before. Registration can be made possible by calling (618) 466-9930 or by emailing info@TheNatureInstitute.org. All children must be accompanied with an adult. Siblings are welcomed to attend, but may not be able to participate in all activities.

TNI is one of the premiere non-profit conservation organizations in the state of Illinois. Their mission is to foster an awareness and appreciation of the natural world through preservation, restoration and education. There are several hiking trails that range in difficulty levels from easy to moderate and are free and open for public use from dawn to dusk.

For more information on "Knee-High Naturalists" or other TNI events, please call (618) 467-2521 or visit www.TheNatureInstitute.org.

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