



After School Announcements

Bringing together those who serve Maine youth

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It has been a year since the first After School Announcements was sent out! We would like your feedback regarding this and other forms of communication from the Network. We appreciate your willingness to participate in this 9 question survey. <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=423742293180>
We hope to deepen the resources available to support the school-age and youth development you are providing in your communities.

Deb

Quality

Ninth Annual Girls Unlimited Tech-Know Conference, March 3rd, from 9 am to 3:45pm. A day of workshops and fun for Maine women and girls. Registration begins at 9 a.m., \$20.00 prior to the Conference, and \$25.00 at the door. **Scholarships are available upon request.** More information is available at [the Hardy Girls website](#) or by calling the Resource Center at 207-861-8131. Call or go online to register today!

Maine Youth Suicide Prevention Conference: April 4th, Sheraton, South Portland. Early Registration deadline is March 16th, \$60 registration fee. FMI: Kim Bittner, 622-7566 ext. 202.

Seminar on Globalization and International Economics, June 27-29, 2007

Boston-based, Federal Reserve System, and external experts in economics, economics instruction, and economic resources **will provide the participants with tools, activities, and experiences that they can use in their classroom** when teaching economic concepts associated with trade (i.e., markets and comparative advantage) and globalization (i.e., outsourcing and off-shoring). FMI <http://www.bos.frb.org/education/workshops/2007/global2007/index.htm>

Advocacy

The Center for Summer Learning at Johns Hopkins University is conducting a **survey to find out what summer learning programs are currently doing to help kids and young people learn about international issues and gain a global perspective.** We are looking for model summer programs that can help us shape future work in this area. Please take a moment to fill out [a very brief survey](#) and share with us a little about your program. We will use survey responses to help us identify potential partners for an upcoming project of the Center for Summer Learning. For questions, please contact Brenda McLaughlin at 410-516-6223 or via email at bmclaughlin@jhu.edu.

Should Children Care About Nature?

From ExchangeEveryDay January 5, 2007

In an excellent summary of the three day Working Forum on Nature Education for Young Children, which took place at the Arbor Day Farm in Nebraska late in October, Dana Friedman shares these reasons why [we] should be promoting nature education...

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Should Children Care about Nature? Con't.

- By exposing children to nature, we're giving them a gift of a faithful, life-long friend.
- It provides life-changing, shaping memories.
- It offers a sense of peace and reconnecting to nature.
- Nature has a therapeutic quality — it is calming.
- The natural world supports the development of caring, pro-social behavior.
- How we relate to nature gives us lessons about how we relate to each other.
- It can serve as a force for change, for peace.
- It fosters self-regulation and learning.
- Nature develops understanding of oneself.
- It brings out the best in children.
- Nature helps children with disabilities, particularly those with sensory integration deficit.
- Children's pretend play outdoors in natural settings tends to be more complex/therapeutic than indoors.
- Play and interaction with the natural environment and materials helps develop cognitive, social, and emotional skills.
- Nature is crucial for total development of the whole child, regardless of stage, ability, or problem.
- Nature education is crucial for preserving of culture, community, learning, healthy being, and world habitat.

To review Dana's entire report visit

http://www.worldforumfoundation.org/wf/wf2006_nature/collected_ideas.php .

Resources

Resources for Rural Afterschool Programs, more

The PEAR website (Program in Education, Afterschool and Resiliency) has compiled an extensive list of resources for your afterschool programs in the area of Rural Issues. Please visit PEAR at: <http://www.pearweb.org/research/rural.html> . See also resources for childhood obesity, mental health, funding, and communication.

Afterschool Astronomy Clubs- Sponsored by NASA

<http://afterschoolastronomy.org/> Includes science content and resources, activities, tips for running a club and how to involve the community.

The **After School Math** website is a full-featured math website for grades 5-8 created by after school staff and credentialed teachers. The site consists of 10 thematic activity modules, each with at least four activities. These content standard aligned activities are fun, hands-on, and provide opportunities for small group interaction, cooperation, and student leadership. <http://www.afterschoolmath.org/>

The Canoe Expedition for Maine Girls

Two sessions: June 22nd – July 14th and July 27th - August 18th for girls ages 14 to 17 **The Chewonki Foundation is offering a three-week canoe expedition for adolescent girls from Maine.** The program aims to increase girls' self-confidence and leadership skills, while deepening their knowledge of Maine's cultural history and ecology. The ten participants first gather on a spring weekend to make their own wooden canoe paddles in Chewonki's woodshop. A few weeks later they begin their adventure down 150 miles of northern lakes and rivers and 500 years of Maine history. Before the trip begins, each girl is paired with a woman mentor from her home community and they meet regularly throughout the following school year. With this long-term support the girls reflect on their summer experience and contemplate important life decisions. In the fall the girls reunite to give a public slide presentation about their journey. **The application can be downloaded from Chewonki's website,** http://www.chewonki.org/trips/trips_girls_canoeing.asp. The February 15th deadline is flexible if the Director knows you have an interest.

Purpose:

To enable every child to have access to quality, inclusive, affordable after school programming that meets the needs of the child, the family and the community.

Vision:

Every school-age child in Maine will have access to quality; inclusive, affordable programs during out-of-school time that meet the needs of the child, the family and the community.

Network Goals:

- 1. Foster statewide, regional, and local partnerships through clear communication among policymakers and providers, in order to coordinate services across the state.*
- 2. Assist in securing resources needed to develop new after school programs and sustain existing programs.*
- 3. Assist with training, technical assistance and coordination to ensure that programs are inclusive, high quality, and meet the needs of children, families and communities.*