

Helderberg Rod & Gun Club

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Helderberg Rod & Gun Club Special Announcement

DEC ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMER EDUCATION CAMPS FOR 2022

To: Helderberg Rod & Gun Club Membership
Date: January 9, 2022
RE: DEC Summer Environmental Education Camps for 2022

The NYS DEC Environmental Education Summer Camps program is currently planning in-person summer youth camp programs for 2022. The Helderberg Rod & Gun Club will again be sponsoring youth campers for the 2022 NYS DEC Summer Environmental Education Youth Camps and Teen Ecology Weeks. Members with children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews who would definitely be interested in attending a DEC Summer Camp during the summer of 2022 should contact the club for potential sponsorship for their child. Campers can choose to attend the two closest camps – Camp Colby at Saranac Lake (Youth Camp or Teen Ecology Week) or Camp Pack Forest on Lake George (Teen Ecology Week, Outdoor Adventure Week or Youth Camp).

The Camp Colby weekly program includes a selection of an optional hunter safety education, bow hunter education or trapper education class (each require home study before camp arrival), depending on the week attended. There are environmental activities; guest speakers; lessons; day trips; camp outs; camp fires; recreation activities such as fishing, archery, environmental games, swimming, volleyball & Frisbee; and optional activities such as fly tying, shelter building, boating, tracking, nature art, fly fishing, orienteering, map making, birding and herping (searching for reptiles and amphibians).

The Camp Pack Forest weekly program includes a selection of an optional hunter safety education, bow hunter education or trapper education class (each require home study before camp arrival), and an Outdoor Skills Adventure week, depending on the week attended. There may also be an optional shooting sports program in which campers who completed Hunter Safety in the past are taught about the safety and handling of shotguns and .22 rifles, followed by the campers shooting these firearms (permission slip required). There are discussions on environmental issues; guest speakers; a debate; overnight trips; campfires; hiking; recreation activities such as fishing, archery, environmental games, swimming, volleyball & Frisbee; and optional activities such as fly tying, shelter building, boating, tracking, nature art, fly fishing, orienteering, map making, birding and herping (searching for reptiles and amphibians).

Note: For the 2022 camp year, the camp weeks will run from Sunday afternoon camper check-in and drop-off at 3:00 pm to Friday afternoon closing ceremonies and camper dismissal at 4:30 pm.

If you have a child interested in attending a DEC Summer Environmental Education Camp in 2022, please contact Dave Morseman at (518) 872-0450 or e-mail at dtmorseman@hotmail.com before February 3, 2022. The HRGC Executive Committee will review and approve club sponsorships for interested campers at their February meeting. Camper week selections will be approved by DEC on a first-come-first-served approval basis, so let us know soon if you have a child interested in a DEC Summer Camp experience.

The following information applies for the 2022 camping season:

- Youth Camp (11-13): If a child is 10 years old and will turn 11 by December 1, 2022, he/she may apply for the 11-13 year-old Youth Camp Weeks 1-3, 5 & 6 at Camp Colby, or Weeks 6 & 7 at Pack Forest.
- Teen Ecology Week (14-17): If a child is 13 years old and will turn 14 by December 1, 2022, he/she may apply for the 14-17 year-old Teen Ecology Weeks 1-5 at Pack Forest, or Week 4 at Camp Colby.
- The camping weeks for 2022 are as follows with the corresponding youth ages and Sportsman Education classes for those weeks at Camp Colby and Camp Pack Forest:

Week #1: July 3-8	Colby (11-13)	Pack Forest (14-17)
Week #2: July 10-15	Colby (11-13)	Pack Forest (14-17) Bow Ed
Week #3: July 17-22	Colby (11-13) Hunter Ed	Pack Forest (14-17) Hunter Ed
Week #4: July 24-29	Colby (14-17) Trapper Ed	Pack Forest (14-17) Outdoor Adventure
Week #5: July 31-Aug. 5	Colby (11-13) Bow Ed	Pack Forest (14-17) Trapper Ed
Week #6: August 7-12	Colby (11-13) Hunter Ed	Pack Forest (11-13) Hunter Ed
Week #7: August 14-19	x x x x x x x x x x	Pack Forest (11-13)

The Outdoor Skills Adventure Week will be offered during Week #4 at Camp Pack Forest for 14-17 year olds. This camp will provide an opportunity for older campers to explore environmental careers; speak with DEC, higher education and natural resource professionals about career paths; participate and gain experience in more advanced activities; and engage in forestry, citizen science and conservation science.

- The club will approve campers to be sponsored by the club. Camper approvals and sponsorships by the club will be subject to the number of interested potential campers and available club funding. The weekly camper fees are set-up in our club's DEC camper account. Parents will need to electronically complete the DEC on-line registration process for their child. The club will provide parents with the sponsorship code information to electronically pay the full \$350 camper fee for their child out of the club's DEC account. The parents and the club will receive electronic notification of camper acceptance.
- Following acceptance of the camper's registration by DEC, an amount of \$175 (one-half the weekly fee of \$350) must be paid by the parents/member by check to Helderberg Rod & Gun Club or on-line credit card payment through the club's website.
- After the camper attends the Summer Camp in 2022, the club asks that he/she come to a membership meeting night or to the club picnic and provide the members with a report on his/her experience at camp. At that time, the club will reimburse the parents/member \$100. Parents' net cost is \$75.
- The parents/member will be responsible for transporting the camper to and from the camp. If that would be a problem or hardship, transportation arrangements may be made with other club members.
- **NEW REGISTRATION START TIME:** Camper registration through DEC's on-line registration process will begin at **1:00 pm on Sunday, March 6, 2022**. Parents should register their child as soon as possible as the camper weeks fill up quickly - some in just one or two days. **DEC highly recommends creating an account and completing the documents in the document center before registration opens.**
- Additional information on the camps, camp programs and weekly camp schedules can be viewed on the DEC Camps website address at: www.dec.ny.gov/education/29.html