



Announces Environmental Scholarship

The future health of our earth and the health of our children depend on getting children out to play in parks and exposed to nature. Research supports the theory that children need nature. Access to green space contributes to improved human health and behavior while lack of exposure to nature is linked to rises in obesity, attention-deficit disorder and depression. At the same time, nature needs this generation of young people. Children who experience nature, are much more likely to protect it as adults. As our nation becomes increasingly urban we need to provide opportunities for youth to be physically active and to develop a direct relationship with nature.

While these findings exist on a global level, they are true as well locally. As Brookline looks to more dense development as a strategy for the future, our open spaces become even more precious and our children's opportunity to connect to nature more vital. Nature sustains us best when we make wise decisions about its care; our responsibility for the next generation is to act locally to leave them the best earth we can. *And* to guide them toward an understanding of our place in relationship to nature and the desire on their part to continue good stewardship.

Brookline GreenSpace Alliance is announcing the formation of the **Jay Veevers Earth Day Fund** at its Annual Meeting in April. A portion of this account will support an opportunity for a Brookline school student to attend the Park and Recreation summer environmental day camp. An essay contest which encourages 9-10 year olds to consider how their neighborhood open space contributes to their enjoyment and their responsibility to protect it will determine the winner of this contest. This contest will be part of Celebrate *Our Earth*, GreenSpace Alliance's observance of nature in our community and recognition of the Park Friends Groups that contribute to the excellence of Brookline's open spaces.

Brookline GreenSpace Alliance, 370 Washington Street, is a nonprofit environmental advocacy and education organization formed in 1987 by a group of concerned citizens to preserve, protect and enhance the open spaces of Brookline, Massachusetts. It works to achieve its mission by advocating for policies, by-laws and practices that promote the use, health and beauty of the natural environment; by supporting and encouraging the formation of park friends groups, and by providing educational opportunities for the community to learn about and get involved in the protection and stewardship of local open space.

Junior Rangers

At Junior Ranger camp, children will experience nature based learning in the outdoors as they work towards earning a Junior Ranger badge. Campers will learn about nature and the environment through hands-on exploration, orienteering, arts & crafts, nature walks and group activities. While visiting Brookline's extraordinary parks and sanctuaries, campers will be introduced to many different environmental topics including: wildlife, habitats, ecology, biodiversity, and conservation. The Junior Ranger Camp will provide young people with a unique learning experience while encouraging stewardship of our natural areas. This program emphasizes hands-on, field-based, experiential learning, and includes daily excursions.

August 3 - August 14, 2008 (2 week session)

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Brookline Environmental Education Center

Ages 9 - 10



Earth Day Essay Contest

Details and Application

Brookline GreenSpace Alliance is pleased to announce its first ever Earth Day Essay Contest, funded by the **Jay Veevers Earth Day Fund**. BGSA invites Brookline 3rd and 4th grade students to submit an essay for the chance of winning the grand prize of a two week day camp slot in the "Junior Rangers" Town of Brookline environmental summer camp for 9 to 10 year olds August 3-14.

TOPIC: The topic of the essay should answer, "What I can do to help my favorite local open space this Earth Day?"

CRITERIA: Essays should be 600 words maximum and will be judged on knowledge, uniqueness, and sincerity. All submissions should be accompanied by the application form below and must be received by April 30th in either e-mail or hard copy form.

Judging will occur on May 14th. Winning entry may be posted on the BGSA website.

BGSA Earth Day Essay Contest Application

STUDENT NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

SCHOOL _____

By signing below, I verify that my child has permission to attend the "Junior Rangers" Summer Camp if chosen as a winner of the Essay Contest.

Parent signature _____

Parent name printed _____

Date _____

Submit to:
Brookline GreenSpace Alliance
370 Washington Street
Brookline, MA 02445
Or
info@brooklinegreenspace.org