



Colorado State University Extension
Jefferson County

Contact: Sharon R Moore
Title: Jefferson County 4-H camp coordinator
e-mail: srmoore@jeffco.us

Jefferson County program awarded 2013 'Connecting Youth with Nature Through Natural Resources Conservation Education' Award

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(Golden, Colo.) The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) and 4-H National Headquarters, USDA collaborate to recognize a 4-H *Program of Distinction* that connects youth with nature.

Eagle's Nest Owl's Roost (ENOR) Environmental Day Camp recently was notified of their award. The day camp has been providing real-life, outdoor experiences to 4th and 5th grade campers for 38 years.

4-H Programs of Distinction are peer-reviewed high quality state and local 4-H youth development programs that:

- exhibit strong program development and contribute to the youth development body of knowledge,
- convey new ideas, materials, or innovative methods related to positive youth development,
- represent long-term program efforts and impact data over an extended period of time, and
- demonstrate changes in knowledge, behaviors, attitudes or aspirations of 4-H youth and adults.

ENOR Campers learn about Colorado's natural and cultural history during a week-long camp, exploring interconnected concepts with a different environmental and social theme at unique sites daily. For example, Colorado wildlife is explored through the lens of the day's theme: Beavers, through the lens of 'habitat', are engineers of their environment. Hands-on, fun and active programming is conducted as campers hike up to six miles a day on mountain terrain learning new things about themselves and the environment around them.

Partners are an integral part of effective programming and serve as an introduction to careers in the natural resource field. Jeffco Public Schools assist with curriculum development; Army Corp of Engineers provide tours and supplemental learning activities of Chatfield Dam; Jeffco Open Space Rangers teach fire science; Colorado School of Mines students conduct tours of experimental mines and educate about historical and present day mining practices. A sixth grade program will be piloted in 2013.

"As the young campers connect with nature through their week outdoors they come to a greater appreciation of the splendor of nature," says Jefferson County 4-H camp coordinator Sharon Moore. "They also learn why it is important to take care of it for their own enjoyment and that of future generations, and how many different professions are involved in conservation efforts."

The selection will be announced at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in late March, and is recognized with a \$10,000 award.

For more information about 4-H Youth Development Programs of Distinction, visit www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/family/sri/youthdev_pod_4h.html.

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Colorado State University Extension is your local university community connection for research-based information about natural resource management; living well through raising kids, eating right and spending smart; gardening and commercial horticulture; the latest agricultural production technologies and community development. Extension 4-H and youth development programs reach more than 90,000 young people annually, over half in urban communities.