

# **NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

**Date: May 15, 2015**

**Contact: Matt Poole; (978) 465-5753, extension 210**

---

## **Refuge Will Offer Week-long Photo Camp for Local Teens**

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge will be conducting its annual Digital Nature Photography Day Camp for high school-age youth the week of July 13 - 17, 2015 at the refuge in Newburyport, MA.

Provided with a loaner digital single lens reflex camera, each camp participant will spend the week learning and practicing the fundamentals of photographic exposure and composition. "Photo safaris" to the national wildlife refuge and other natural areas will provide opportunities for photographing nature "up close and personal." Emphasis will be placed on capturing images of wildlife and nature. In the process of practicing these new skills, campers will learn *about* nature by spending time *in* nature.

Camp participants will also learn how to edit their digital images on a computer. In order to participate in this year's camp, each participant will be required to provide and use their own laptop computer (either Windows or Mac). A free image editing program will be identified for downloading by the refuge's camp director.

Photography and image editing instruction during the camp will be provided by refuge staff and members of the Photographic Society of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. By week's end each camper will have assembled a portfolio of their favorite images – one of which will be selected for printing and framing as part of a public display in the refuge visitor center.

Applicants to the day camp must be entering grades 9, 10, 11, or 12 next fall (or be of equivalent age, if home-schooled). While photography experience is not required, applicants should have a sincere interest in learning about both photography and the natural world. A total of ten youth will be selected to participate in this year's camp session. Participants will be provided a loaner camera and lens for the duration of the camp. Only the laptop computer needs to be provided (Windows or Mac). Tuition for the camp is \$100.

Those interested in applying to this year's photo camp should download, complete and return a "Photo Camp Application" by June 5<sup>th</sup>. The form is available at this web address: [http://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/photo\\_camp\\_application\\_2015.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/photo_camp_application_2015.pdf). For further information, contact the refuge at (978) 465-5753, ext. 210.

**2015 Photo Camp Application**  
Digital Nature Photography Day Camp / July 13 – 17, 2015  
Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

Name of Camp Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ School Grade Next Fall: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Town/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

**Dear Applicant: Please respond to the following questions:**

1. Describe your experience using a digital camera and editing digital photographs.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. If you currently own (or use) a digital camera, what type of camera is it (“point and shoot” or digital single lens reflex (which has interchangeable lenses))?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What type of laptop computer will you be using during the camp (Windows or Mac)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. \*\*Please explain why you want to participate in a week-long course that focuses on digital nature photography (continue your response on back if necessary).

Note: All camp participants will be required to provide and use a laptop computer during the camp (Windows or Mac). Camp director will identify a free image editing program that will need to be loaded on the computer prior to the first day of camp.

**Please complete and return this form to the refuge by Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>.** Camp participants will be selected and notified by Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. This form can be returned via email attachment by sending it to: [matt\\_poole@fws.gov](mailto:matt_poole@fws.gov); fax: (978) 465-2807; or by dropping it off at refuge headquarters (6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport, MA 01950).