

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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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 14 - 18, 2014 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 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. Using a lottery process, 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. 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 4th. The form is available at this web address: http://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/photocampapplication_2014.pdf. For further information, contact the refuge at (978) 465-5753, ext. 210.