

Making A Difference

Do we need a “Summer Adventure Program”?

By Bill Lewis

Amid the sand dunes and oak-hickory forests of Northwest Indiana I learned to love wild places. During the heat of summer, I, my siblings and our friends would spend hours in the trees, ponds, and thickets that surrounded our rural homesteads.

On any given day we were adventurers exploring new places, scientists researching newly discovered plants and animals, and engineers building forts and bridges. We learned about nature, but we also learned to get along, to be creative, and to *make* fun. We learned what can not be found in textbooks or on television. We learned much because we experienced the natural world by living and playing in it every day.

Unfortunately, many kids don't have the place, the time, or the opportunity to have this kind of experience. School field trips provide an introduction to the natural world, but most kids need a deeper, richer experience. It is because of this need that Cope Environmental Center created the Summer Adventure Program in 1998. Kids from pre-school through eighth grade spend a week experiencing everything from bugs and slugs to worms and wetlands. They don't just look and talk, they dig, wade, draw, write, photograph, collect, experiment, climb, research, and *make* fun. For many, it is a life-changing experience. Our kids need that kind of experience. Our kids need CEC's Summer Adventure Program.

What is the true cost of a program at CEC?

It is a challenge to calculate the true cost of a program. Everything from the property and equipment to the trained staff and utilities factor into the equation. On average, about one-fifth of the true cost is paid by the participant and the remainder is paid through grants, sponsorships, and

donations from our members and supporters. Very few families can afford to pay the true cost, approximately \$200, for a one week program, especially if there is more than one child. That is why your support is so important. If you want to sponsor a child, please read on...

Summer Adventure Program Registration

Begins

March 1 (members)
March 17 (non-members)

Space is limited and programs fill quickly, so call 855-3188 to reserve your child's spot today.

“I noticed such a change in his behavior. He began to look around, outside of himself. John went from stomping on ants to an almost reverence for them. He is the bug man now.”

Parent of child in the Summer Adventure Program, 2002

Summer Adventure Program

Sponsor a child today!

Yes!

I want to support CEC's Summer Adventure Program to instill a "sense of wonder" in our next generation so they will love and appreciate our natural world as much as I do. I am rushing my tax-deductible contribution to CEC for:

- \$720 = supports four children in four one-week programs.
- \$360 = supports two children in two one-week programs.
- \$180 = supports one child in a one-week program.
- \$36 = supports one child for one day of programming.
- ____ = support I would like to provide for these programs.

Checks: Make your check payable to Cope Environmental Center.
Write "Summer Adventure Program" on the memo line.

Credit Card: I authorize Cope Environmental Center to charge my:

____ VISA ____ MasterCard ____ Discover Card ____ American Express

Name as it appears on card: _____

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____ Phone: _____

To: Bill Lewis, Executive Director

From:

As a supporter of the Summer Adventure Program, do you wish to remain anonymous? Yes ____ No ____

How would you like your contribution to be recognized in our newsletter?

Name(s):

