



## Call for Proposals



### *“Children in Nature Day at NH State Parks” A Nature Play Day*

Collaboratively hosted by  
NH Children in Nature Coalition and  
NH Division of Parks and Recreation - Great Park Pursuit

**July 11, 2015**  
**Pawtuckaway State Park, Nottingham, NH**

NH Children in Nature Coalition is teaming with the NH Division of Parks & Recreation to present a unique event for families to experience nature, and for caregivers to learn how to connect their children or students to nature. This on-the-ground, nature play activity day will be part teaching tool (for educators and parents) and part family fun -- in the woods, around the fields, and by the water. Families will come to experience all that the Great Park Pursuit offers; our activity leaders will guide parents, educators and caregivers in how to bring their kids out into nature with lots of simple, accessible, creative ideas that are safe and fun. This collaborative event will happen at Pawtuckaway State Park.

We invite you to present an activity for families that would combine hands-on time in nature with teaching tips for adult caregivers. Share your expertise and ideas as a teacher, environmental educator, scout leader, early childhood educator, community member, artist, park & recreation professional, camp leader, business owner, or health practitioner. Use the *“To Submit a Proposal”* information at the end of this document as a guide.

#### **What is the Great Park Pursuit?**

New Hampshire’s Great Park Pursuit is a free challenge designed to help families (teams) enjoy the recreational opportunities offered by the state and municipal parks, forests, and waterways in NH State Parks. A series of events is hosted throughout the summer at different state parks. The Great Park Pursuit is now in its 7th year of connecting children, youth and families with parks in New Hampshire.

#### **Activities for Children in Nature Day**

We are looking for nature play activities that families with children of all ages can enjoy. In addition, adult caregivers (such as educators, parents, and scout leaders) will be attending this event to collect new ideas and gain understanding about how to effectively bring children outdoors in fun, creative and safe ways.

Possibilities could include:

- Land navigation and orienteering
- Simple activities in woods, on water, in fields
- Nature walks/hikes
- Outdoor crafts and creative expression (journals, art, music)
- Geocaching
- Wildlife tracking, experiencing micro-wildlife
- Ponding
- Water play
- Woods games
- Fairy houses

...and other ideas that you might have!

Activities should be adaptable to a variety of settings, and be accessible and suitable for parents and caregivers to lead with their own kids. Include in your activity ways of keeping kids safe and engaged outdoors. Keep the materials simple.

### **Audience Details**

Our target audience is people who are interested in increasing children's contact with nature. Typically, families with children of all ages attend the Great Park Pursuit. Adults in attendance that day are caregivers of all kinds, and may include: parents, educators, scout leaders, 4-H leaders, grandparents, early childhood educators, school administrators, parks and recreation staff, health professionals, artists, business owners, community members, and others. (Remember that parents could also work in professional roles of caregiving, like scout leaders!)

### **Session Information**

All sessions will run for 45 minutes and will take place in outdoor spaces. Selected presenters will run their activity 4 times, with a 15-minute break between sessions, from 10am to 2pm. Presenters should be prepared for groups of approximately 10-30 people for each 45-minute session. The activity can be active or calm, and can engage the whole group as one, or smaller groups working concurrently. We are looking for a hands-on experience without PowerPoint or electricity.

### **What's in it for you?**

In addition to helping create a great nature play day for families, you have an opportunity to promote your program or organization by showcasing your best nature activities. This event will be advertised statewide through many marketing avenues for at least a month prior to the event. We encourage presenters to bring promotional material that day.

Information about this event will be posted our websites:

[www.nhchildreninnature.org/events](http://www.nhchildreninnature.org/events)

[www.nhstateparks.org/what's-happening/great-park-pursuit](http://www.nhstateparks.org/what's-happening/great-park-pursuit)

## To submit a proposal

Please submit your completed proposal no later than April 23, 2015 by 4:00 pm. We will notify you by April 30, 2015 regarding the status of your proposal.

## Presenter Information and Activity Information

*(Complete the presenter information for each additional presenter who would participate in leading this activity.)*

**Name**

**Title, Organization**

**Address, City, State, Zip**

**Phone and Email**

**Title of Activity** – This title should provide attendees with a clear idea of your activity.

**Brief Summary** – This is a more detailed description of your activity and should include information on how it connects children, youth and families to nature, how it is applicable to the theme of the day, the format of the activity, and any additional information that will help the selection committee in the decision making process. *Add a one-paragraph description to be used for the program if your proposal is selected.*

**Goals of the activity** – What do you hope children and families will take away from your activity? What do you expect to accomplish? What will adult caregiver participants gain?

**Intended audience** – Who is your primary target audience? Is your activity for beginners (new to nature) or people with some experience outdoors? Is the activity specific to a particular group or broadly applicable to a range of people interested in kids and nature/ outdoor play? Indicate if you have a limit to the number of participants in your activity.

**Space needs** – *All workshops take place outdoors!* Please indicate any special space requirements such as “grassy area” or “trees would be ideal.”

**Qualifications** – Tell us about your experience, expertise and/or qualifications to lead the activity you are proposing. Share any similar activities you’ve led in other venues.

**Other** - Is there anything else you would like the selection committee to know?

**Submit by EMAIL to:**

**info@NHChildrenInNature.org**

**OR**

**by POSTAL MAIL to:**

**NH Children in Nature Coalition**

**c/o Lori Harris, 910 Stage Road, Plainfield, NH 03781**