NATURE CONNECTION CHANGES LIVES AND THE WORLD

Deep nature connection fuels social change through creating a supportive culture that brings out and celebrates participants’ strengths and gifts, inspiring inner growth and positive action. Nature education immerses students in experiences in which they find power with others—accomplishing things together that would not have been possible on their own.

In our programs, children, teens, and adults cultivate gratitude and curiosity, learn through experimentation and failure, and expand their physical, mental, and emotional comfort zones, influencing the way they see the world and how they interact within it as leaders and community members.

Time in nature is proven to enhance health and well-being on a neurobiological level as well—reducing symptoms of trauma, depression, anxiety, and ADHD; increasing stress resilience; and supporting motor function, brain development, and sensory integration.

OUR COMMITMENT TO EQUITY AND RACIAL JUSTICE

FDNC is committed to widening the circle of nature connection to include people of all cultures, races, ethnicities, religions, and orientations, united in the embrace of the natural world. For more information: flyingdeernaturecenter.org/equity

PROGRAMS FOR EVERY SEASON

We all need the benefits of connecting with the natural world and, in like measure, nature needs our care. Flying Deer nurtures this deep and reciprocal relationship with the earth through year-round programming for all ages.

SUMMER CAMPS
IN-SCHOOL & AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS
HOMESCHOOL & FOREST KINDERGARTEN
RITES-OF-PASSAGE PROGRAMS
TEEN ADVENTURES
VACATION CAMPS
ADULT IMMERSIONS
TEACHER TRAININGS
CORPORATE CONSULTING

Get dates and details at flyingdeernaturecenter.org/programs.

FLYINGDEERNA TURECENTER.ORG
As the earth thaws and the more-than-human world comes back to life, we throw off layers and greet the sun and the new growth!

In our in-school, after-school, and homeschool programs in Columbia and Berkshire Counties and beyond, we forage for wild edibles, identify bird calls, boil sap for maple syrup, hone our awareness as we learn to Fox Walk and use our Owl Eyes, and listen to stories that encapsulate the wisdom of nature and of our ancestors.

The journey of gaining comfort in the mysterious winter landscape is empowering and intriguing. Freshly fallen snow is ideal for tracking, one of the core components of our programming. Integrated throughout our winter vacation camps and homeschool programs for children and teens—and highlighted in our Winter Tracking Intensive for adults—this skill offers a fascinating glimpse into the daily habits of our wild neighbors and a deeper knowledge of our environment.

“Learning to build fire, make shelter, and use primitive cooking techniques brings us closer to the land and to an ancient way of life, while building facility and confidence in nature.”

—Josh Wood, program director

“During 2020, our programming expanded to include online classes for children around the country, as well as consulting and training for teachers and schools seeking to move learning outdoors.”

“Summer at Flying Deer is a celebration! The Morning Circle buzzes with excitement as friends reunite and greet beloved instructors and counselors—many of whom have been with us since they were summer campers, beginning almost 25 years ago. With day camps for ages 4–12, adventures for teens, nature-based art experiences, and more, summer at Flying Deer is packed with connection, fun, and memory-making.”

In fall, we harvest the gifts of nature—pressing apples for cider, boiling chaga mushrooms for “hot chaga-late,” grinding acorns into flour, and collecting bark and vines for cordage and baskets. And we harvest the gifts of nature connection as well—resilience, creativity, collaboration, and the ability to listen deeply to ourselves, to our surroundings, and to others. Fall marks the start of our school-based programs around the region, and brings new and returning groups of rites-of-passage, homeschool, and adult immersion participants to our land—164 acres of field, forest, and stream donated to us in 2017 by the Laskin family.

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“‘We’re grateful for the lessons Flying Deer teaches our children, both practical and philosophical. Also for the wonderful examples of kindness, leadership, and care for nature and others. After a day of learning through experience and example, our kids come home tired, muddy, and full of stories to share.’”

—James K., Falls Village, CT

“We have such a brief opportunity to pass onto our children our love for this Earth, and to tell our stories. These are the moments when the world is made whole. In my children’s memories, the adventures we’ve had together in nature will always exist.”

—Richard Louv

“Our property is tailor-made for our work, with diverse wildlife habitats, meandering streams, grandmother oak trees, and expansive fields. Here we can fully express the ethic and core values that guide all that we do.”

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