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National Gold Medal Award
for Excellence in Leisure Services!*

DATE SUBMITTED: August 26, 2009

PROGRAM CONTACT: Ben Boven, Bur-Mil Park Program Coordinator, (336) 373-3819

NAME OF PROGRAM: **Junior Naturalist Program**

DATE/TIME: This program functions as an afterschool program from 3-7 pm during the school year, and 9 am-8 pm on weekends, holiday breaks and during the summer. The minimum shift is two hours with a four hour, per week, minimum time commitment, during the school year and 12 hours, per week, during the summer.

FEE: Free

LOCATION: Frank Sharpe Jr. Wildlife Education Center

ADDRESS: Bur-Mil Park, 5834 Bur-Mil Club Rd., Greensboro, NC

DESCRIPTION: The Junior Naturalist program is designed for middle and high school students with an interest in wildlife, environmental science and the natural world. The program is held primarily in the Wildlife Education Center at Bur-Mil Park. Junior Naturalists are volunteers, who assist staff with educational programs, camps, birthday parties, exhibit construction and animal care. Students also interact with visitors, talk about exhibits, show animals, and give tours of the building. By working with peers and park staff, participants develop leadership and people skills, gain experience in the development of programs and exhibits, and increase their knowledge of wildlife and environmental education. As an added benefit, Junior Naturalists can participate in training workshops to learn how to handle the animals, how to teach a class and other relevant topics. Socials for the students will enhance camaraderie and relationship development. Once a month, Junior Naturalists will participate in guided field trips, or overnight trips, to different sites, including the NC Zoo, Haw River State Park, and the Western NC Nature Center. Trips will be chaperoned by experienced park staff and program parents. Junior Naturalists will be eligible for special discounts at other park facilities such as the Family Aquatic Center, the par 3 golf course and driving range.

For more information, contact Ben Boven, Bur-Mil Park Program Coordinator, at (336) 373-3819.