2014 Early Childhood Nature Summit

Community Summit for the Greater St. Louis Region

June 30–July 2

Missouri Botanical Garden
Monsanto Center
4500 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis

WHO: Early childhood educators, preschool center directors and staff, district leaders, parents, and community partners. Teams of two to five individuals per school, center, or district are encouraged.

WHY: To convene early childhood educators, district leaders, parents, and other community partners around the topic of ensuring positive, frequent experiences with nature and the great outdoors during the early learning years. Also, to facilitate dialogue, encourage breakthrough thinking, celebrate shared vision for new opportunities, and spark change.

WHAT: A three-day summit where everyone will be able to share successes and struggles, take in case studies from local early childhood educators, connect evidence-based research to practice, enjoy short-form films that focus on the role of nature in early childhood, experience a day out at Shaw Nature Reserve together, and think big about nature-inspired ways our shared community can help our youngest citizens sprout, grow, and thrive.

Learn more and register at www.mobot.org/schoolprograms

You can also call Jennifer Hartley at (314) 577-0819 or email teachertraining@mobot.org.

DON'T MISS IT!

Space is limited to first 25 teams of educators

Registration Deadline
June 26, 2014
2014 Early Childhood Nature Summit
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Monday, June 30
Monsanto Center, 4500 Shaw Blvd. | 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

- Light breakfast and lunch provided
- **Keynote:**
  Sue Stepleton, Director of Brown School Policy Forum,
  Washington University in St. Louis
- **Case Studies:**
  A dynamic series of brief, TED-like talks profiling local early childhood sites, stories, perspectives, and visions from across the St. Louis region.
  
  - Saint Louis University/City of St. Louis
  - Johanna Wharton, J.D., Executive Vice President/
    Director of Head Start, Grace Hill Settlement House
  - Julie Wuch, Principal, Wilkinson ECC,
    St. Louis Public Schools
  - Brandi Cartwright, Executive Director,
    Raintree Learning Center
- **What the Evidence Tells Us:**
  Connecting research to practice.
  
  - Steve Zwolak, Executive Director, University City
    Children’s Center and Lume Institute
  - Elizabeth Sherwood, EdD, Associate Professor,
    Early Childhood Education, Southern Illinois
    University–Edwardsville
  - Adrian Cerезo, Associate Director for Conservation
    Education Research, St. Louis Zoo
- **Afternoon Movies & Popcorn:**
  The Big Picture: A series of short-form film screenings from across the U.S. and world, showing the universal need to reconnect young children with nature in their everyday lives.

Tuesday, July 1
Shaw Nature Reserve, Gray Summit, MO | 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

- Transportation on your own; lunch provided
- Experience the Nature Explore Classroom and enjoy demonstrations of replicable nature activities and games.
- Hone your native plant- and wildlife-ID skills.
- Sample child-friendly citizen science activities like Bud Burst, Feeder Watch, and Nature’s Notebook.
- Enjoy an EarthWalk, StoryWalk®, and Wilderness Wagon Tour.

Wednesday, July 2
Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Blvd. | 9–11 a.m.

- **Garden tours:** Explore how knee-high naturalists can experience the Missouri Botanical Garden.
- **Small group activity:** Use customized mapping to identify, plan, and prepare for year-round nature explorations in YOUR neighborhood.

Monsanto Center, 4500 Shaw Blvd. | 11:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

- Lunch provided
- “Dig Deeper” group planning sessions: integration of natural sciences across the curriculum; multi-season planning; family/home connections; community resources.

REGISTRATION
To foster collaboration, two to five people from a school/district are encouraged to attend. A $150 registration fee covers a team of up to five for the entire summit, including lunch all three days. To register, click Teacher Professional Development at www.mobot.org/schoolprograms. You can also call Jennifer Hartley at (314) 577-0819 or email teachertraining@mobot.org.

OUR COLLABORATORS

- Academy of Science St. Louis
- Boeing Corporation
- City of St. Louis
- Lindenwood University
- Maryville University
- Grace Hill Head Start
- Goddard School–Edwardsville
- Harris-Stowe State College
- Litzsinger Road Ecology Center
- PNC Bank
- Raintree Learning Center
- Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House
- Southern Illinois University–Edwardsville
- St. Louis Public Schools
- St. Louis Zoo
- University of Missouri–St. Louis
- Urban League Head Start
- Webster University

DON'T FORGET!
Graduate credit or continuing education credit is available through the following universities:

- Harris-Stowe State University
- Lindenwood University
- Maryville University
- Southern Illinois University–Edwardsville
- University of Missouri–St. Louis
- Webster University