

C&NN's Nature Clubs for Families: Do It Yourself! Do It Now!

Web Resources for Connecting Children and Families with Nature

Note: We hope that you find the following list to be a useful reference. It is not, however, comprehensive. Please send us your suggestions for additions by writing to info@childrenandnature.org. We will not be able to include every suggestion. We will, however, review every recommendation. Thanks for your interest in reconnecting children and families with nature!

KEY:

 **Family Nature Clubs**

 **Nature-Related Information and Activities**

 **Products**

Affiliation/Contact	Website	Description
Healthy Montana	http://www.greatfallsribune.com/article/20081117/MT_HEALTH05/811180348/-1/MT_HEALTH	This article about Family Nature Clubs provides tips for starting your own club.
Happy Trails Family Nature Club-Minn., MN	http://www.happytrailsclub.net/	Includes: benefits of connecting with nature, a reading list, links, blog, club schedule, testimonials, newsletter and how-to ideas for helping your family connect with nature.
Kids in the Valley, Adventuring-Roanoke, VA	http://kidsadventuring.org/blog/	This family nature club has lots of information: past and future events, photo gallery, blog, and other resources.
Environmental Education in Kentucky	http://eeinkentucky.org/net/content/go.aspx?s=73485.0.113.37933	Nature clubs for families and tips for starting your own. The link connects to the C&NN Web site.

Erie Metro Park Events-Huron, Ohio	http://www.funcoast.com/calendar/2008/12/04/family-nature-club-winter-hike-holiday-craft	Family Nature Club schedule and registration.
Riverbend Envir. Education Center	http://www.riverbendec.org/programs/natureclubs/	This Pennsylvania center publishes-family nature club meeting schedules, themes. This club has registration costs.
Nature Rocks Nature Club	http://www.wifr.com/community/events/35059254.html	Listings for nature club meetings in Beloit, Wisc.
Houston Aud. Soc. Family Nature Explore Club	http://www.houstonaudubon.org/index.cfm/MenuItemID/687.htm	Offers a description of and schedule for the Houston nature club.
Inland Empire Kids Outdoors	http://www.meetup.com/iekidsoutdoors/	This family nature club is based in Murrieta, Calif. You must be a member to have access to all aspects of this site.
Nature Strollers-Orange County, NY	http://www.naturestrollers.org/	A club for Orange County, N.Y., families who enjoy learning and playing in nature. Web site includes blog, start-up guide, calendar and announcements.
Rockland County (NY) Nature Strollers	http://www.meetup.com/Rockland-s-Natural-Family-Living-Meetup/pages/Nature Strollers/?name=Nature Strollers	This Web site includes a blog, walk schedule, announcements, local park guide and club information.
Rhode Island Families in Nature	http://www.rifamiliesinnature.org/	This group meets monthly to go for a family nature hike. Hike schedule and descriptions are listed on the Web site.
Dunwoody Nature Center	http://www.dunwoodynature.org/do/homeschool.html	This is a nature center-led nature club for homeschoolers. Meeting schedule and themes are listed on site.
Kids of Nature Club-South Africa	http://www.kidsofnature.com/Content_1090000000_club.htm	A South Africa nature club dedicated to reconnecting children with nature. You can join online.
Active Kids Club-Canada	http://www.activekidsclub.com/index.html	Active Kids Club has information about the benefits from being outside. They also provide tips for playing outside in all seasons, and for how to create an outdoor playgroup.
Heed Nature Club, Iowa	http://heednature.blogspot.com/2008/09/heed-september-afternoon-nature-club.html	Blog describes Heed Nature Club activities in Iowa.
The Family Nature Club of Gig Harbor	http://www.meetup.com/FamilyNatureClubOfGigHarbor/	Information on this family nature club, including meeting schedules, can be found in this site.
Arbor Day Foundation	http://www.arborday.org/explore/	You will find ideas to help start your own Family Nature Club, along with all kinds of ways to explore nature with your family. There are several publications available for purchase that encourage nature play.

Every Student Learns Outside	http://www.learnoutside.org/home.html	Project Learning Tree has adapted several activities from their Activity Guide for families to use in the outdoors.
California State Parks	http://www.kids.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=25384	California State Parks provide opportunities for kids and families to get involved with nature. Web site includes state park events for families, downloadable activities, Junior Ranger Program, litter cleanup program and others.
Nature Skills (Wilderness Awareness School)	http://www.natureskills.com/child_nature_activities.html	This Web site highlights outdoor skills achieved through nature-awareness activities. Stories of families' experiences in nature offer encouragement to others who may be interested in enjoying nature with their family.
DIY Preschool	http://diypreschool.blogspot.com/2007/02/13-great-nature-activities-for-very.html	This blog suggests 13 simple activities/experiences to do with young children.
Gomestic	http://www.gomestic.com/Family/Fun-Nature-Activities-for-You-and-Your-Children.147491	Information about why children benefit from being outside in nature, as well as several helpful ideas for families who want to get outside together and have fun.
Family Resource	http://www.familyresource.com/parenting/activities/getting-kids-back-to-nature	This article supports the need for children to connect with nature, and offers ideas for families who would like to spend more time in nature.
LNCI Greater Cincinnati	http://www.lncigc.org/guide/tips.shtml	In addition to the many simple yet fun activities listed, there is a tremendous amount of information on the movement to reconnect children and families with nature.
NAAEE	http://www.naaee.org/maee/workshoppowerpoints/revise/Early%20Childhood%20Nature%20Activities.pdf	This PDF is full of hands-on nature-related early childhood activities to spark the creative imagination.
Eastern Native Tree Society	http://www.nativetreesociety.org/childrens/index_childrens.htm	Provides a long list of links to activities, most related to trees and native plants, and links to many other organizations.
Brookville Zoo	http://www.brookfieldzoo.org/pagegen/pretemp4.asp?pageid=573&template=4&title=Explore!_Nature_Activities&bgtype=Background&bg=exbgna.gif&uni=0&motifid=2000002&form=0&nsection=&nlinkid=&anchor=	This Web site provides information on how families can experience nature both at the zoo and in nature. They list activity ideas and provide a searchable database for finding natural areas around Chicago.
Pajarito EE Center	http://www.pajaritoeec.org/education/family_nature_activities.php	Lists several nature-related activities with full descriptions for how families can experience nature together. They also have a schedule for nature playtime for preschoolers and their parents. They are located in Los Alamos, NM.
Monitor on Psychology	http://www.apa.org/monitor/2008/03/outdoors.html	This interesting article focuses on how children benefit from a relationship with nature.
Care 2 Make a Difference	http://www.care2.com/greenliving/family/nature-activities-44	Many stories and tips for enjoying nature with your family.

Big Learning	http://biglearning.com/treasureoutdoors.htm	This site lists lots of activities that help children develop a personal relationship with nature.
Connecting with Nature	http://www.connecting-with-nature.net/nature-activities.html	This link provides natural history information in addition to listing many family oriented nature activities. They are devoted to the study of nature close to home.
Suite 101.com	http://familytravel.suite101.com/article.cfm/nature_games_for_urban_children	An article that outlines some nature activities appropriate for children living in urban environments.
New Hampshire Fish and Game Department	http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/ChildrenInNature/index.htm	Provides information on New Hampshire's Take a Child Outside week, and describes several hands-on nature-based activities to connect children and families with nature. Links to studies, too.
Family Education	http://fun.familyeducation.com/play/outdoor-activities/33394.html	Nature-based activities for children ages 6 to 10.
Family Education	http://fun.familyeducation.com/activities-center/toddlers-preschoolers-K12children/?theme=outdoors	Outdoor activities for children of all ages.
Family Fun	http://familyfun.go.com/parenting/learn/activities/feature/FGP_nature/	Nature activities for adults and children.
Kids Relaxation	http://www.kidsrelaxation.com/relaxation_activities/stimulating_relaxation_nature_children.htm	This organization focuses on eliciting deep physical relaxation by mindfully connecting with the natural world. A description of this meditative philosophy accompanies several interesting links and hands-on, minds-on activities.
The Children's Nature Institute	http://www.childrensnatureinstitute.org/	Has a schedule of family nature walks year-round during the week and on weekends in Los Angeles and Ventura County. Families can see nature walk descriptions and register on this site. \$10 suggested family donation.
Suite 101.com	http://stayathomeparents.suite101.com/article.cfm/the_importance_of_outdoor_play_for_kids	Information about and ideas for simple ways parents can engage their children in nature. (See: Suite 101.com above)
Old Fashioned Living	http://www.seedsofknowledge.com/treehouse.htm	Sift through hundreds of activities to find fun nature activities to do with your kids.
Go Outside!	http://books.google.com/books?hl=en&id=Mj64W-k10qwC&dq=go+outside&printsec=frontcover&source=web&ots=mJOIPeq-nz&sig=1hgk_IQnL5z7AZjJbwz0zdU9EfU&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=2&ct=result#PPA61,M1	This online book lists more than 130 activities for outdoor adventures.
Play Core: Moving Kids Forward	http://www.playcore.com/content.asp?p=Nature%20and%20Play&rid=111	Provides a number of resources on nature and play.
Family Education	http://fun.familyeducation.com/outdoor-games/parenting/33404.html	Nature activity ideas for both younger and older children.

The Church of Jesus Christ LDS	http://www.lds.org/hf/display/0,16783,4282-1,00.html	This is a church-based site that provides several fun family activities to do outside.
Get Out! Outdoor Adventure in the Ohio River Region	http://www.getoutzine.com/node/225	This Web site provides lots of information on the region's No Child Left Inside campaign, as well as activity ideas for families to connect with nature.
Let's Go Outside	http://www.fws.gov/letsgooutside/	Information on the benefits of connecting with nature, with an interactive database to find natural areas in your region.
Get Outdoors It's Yours	http://www.getoutdoorsitsyours.gov/	An interactive site that provides information on places to go and activities to do with your family.
National Park Service	http://www.nps.gov/kidszone/park_fun.html	A list of resources for families to get outside. All resources have links to more information.
Lincoln Children's Zoo	http://www.myyard.org/	Provides both information and ideas relating to outdoor play with your children.
Healthy Families Play Outside	http://lincolnsafari.org/home.php	Learn about and register for the year-round citywide nature scavenger hunt in Lincoln, NE.
National Wildlife Federation	http://www.greenhour.org/	Includes nature activities, blog, and information about the importance of getting kids outside in nature.
Scholastic	http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3747089	A nature scavenger hunt for young children.
GNP Parents	http://gnmparents.com/the-littlest-naturalists-part-iv-outdoor-group-games/	Outdoor group games that focus on team building.
Sharing Nature Foundation	http://www.sharingnature.com/	Sharing Nature is dedicated to helping people of all ages experience their oneness and harmony with life. Workshop schedule is posted. Nature activities also are presented.
Teens for the Planet Earth	http://www.teensforplanetearth.org/	This is an action-oriented site that encourages teens to get involved in the environment.
Nature Circles-Hooked on Nature	http://www.naturecircles.org/	Provides a how-to guide to start a nature circle. Its goal is to bring friends and families together to connect with nature.
Nature for Kids	http://natureforkids.net/	Nature for Kids encourages families with young children to enrich their lives through wholesome outdoor recreation. They provide lots of ideas to help families enjoy exploring the outdoors together. They also highlight families connecting with nature. Their stories are fun to read.
Children and Nature Network	http://www.childrenandnature.org/natureclubs	This is the one-stop shop for anyone interested in learning about the movement to reconnect children and families with nature. See the most current research on why children need unstructured time in nature, as well as a list with links to initiatives across the

		country. Tips, inspiration, and resources for starting your own Family Nature Club are highlighted, as well.
Richard Louv	http://richardlouv.com/children-nature-resources	Here are helpful resources for parents, teachers, and community leaders to encourage children's enjoyment of the great outdoors. Included are nature activities, suggested books, and useful links.
Outdoor Baby	http://outdoorbaby.net/	For families who enjoy the outdoors: Share your adventures or questions on this free information-sharing site.
Wilderness Awareness School	http://www.wildernessawareness.org/coyotesguide.html?gclid=CKGK84XgspcCFQquGgodh32ljg	This group provides training for parents, teachers, and mentors. They also have a book to purchase called "Coyote's Guide to Connecting with Nature."
Imagine Childhood	http://imaginechildhood.com/	This company has a blog that encourages experiences in nature, as well as a store where you can purchase items that support exploration in nature.
Recreational Equipment, Inc.	www.rei.com	REI is known for outdoor gear and apparel for all ages. They also offer family adventure packages and are committed to enabling people to have positive experiences in the outdoors. They also sponsor in-store workshops that promote outdoor recreation. A list of local family hikes is easily downloaded from their Web site.
Acorn Naturalists	www.acornnaturalist.com	This Web-based and catalog store provides all kinds of items that can enhance families' experiences in nature (i.e. bug boxes, hand lenses, nets, field guides, activity books, etc.).
Dawn Publications	www.dawnpublications.com	Dawn Publications' mission is to assist parents and educators to open the minds and hearts of children to the transforming influence of nature. They have a wonderful selection of books available for purchase on their Web site.
Nature Bags	http://www.naturebag.ca/	Nature bags include items to help families explore nature, and are available for purchase on their Web site.
Mountain Sprouts	http://www.mountainsprouts.com	Mountain Sprouts believes in the importance of children's exploration of the great outdoors. Their company sells children's clothing suited for outdoor play.
Mountain Hardwear	http://www.mountainhardwear.com	Mountain Hardwear sells outdoor equipment and apparel for adults. They give back to society by funding outdoor/nature camps for kids and adults.
LL Bean	www.llbean.com	Their outdoor products are for all ages. Web site also has an international park search. Stores participate in Walk-On Adventures, where children (at least 8 years old) and adults can

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Tiny Trekkers	http://www.tinytrekker.com/	This is an online retail store that has used their experience in finding and accumulating the best gear available to put together a site where any parent can find the tools they need to share the outdoors with their own Tiny Trekkers.
Outside Baby, Get Outside and Play!	http://www.outsidebaby.com/	Based in and inspired by one of the most outdoor-active parts of the U.S. -- Hood River, Oregon. "We have developed a line to help kids and parents Get Out and Play! It's all about making it more fun to be a kid, and a parent, while enjoying the great outdoors. Mountain to park we've got what you need to get going with your infant or toddler!"
Angel Bear Yoga	http://www.angelbearyoga.com/	"We show children how to learn positive character from the