

Beczak Environmental Education Center
on the Hudson River at 35 Alexander Street, Yonkers, NY 10701
(914) 377-1900, www.beczak.org

HIGH RES PHOTOS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



CONTACT

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“Chillin’ Out with Nature” Winter Recess Program
February 21 - 24, 10:00 – 2:00 PM, for ages 8 - 11
at Beczak Environmental Education Center

Kids enjoy outdoor adventures with Beczak, Greenburgh Nature Center, L.L. Bean and REI during Winter Recess

Yonkers, N.Y. (January 24, 2012) – Kids on school break have an opportunity to “Chill Out with Nature!” This winter recess program features snowshoeing and other winter recreation with L.L. Bean and REI, building shelters and campfires out of Hudson River driftwood with Beczak educators and a birds of prey demonstration with Greenburgh Nature Center. Tuesday, February 21 – Friday, February 24, 10:00 – 2:00 PM daily, ages 8 – 11, \$200 for 4-day program or \$60 a day. Register and more info at vgarufi@beczak.org / 914.377.1900 x 12. Beczak Environmental Education Center, 35 Alexander Street, Yonkers, NY 10701. www.beczak.org

SCHEDULE’S HIGHLIGHTS

- **Tuesday, February 21 – Snowshoeing.** Kids take a scavenger hunt around Beczak Environmental Education Center’s two-acre park . . . on snowshoes! L.L. Bean specialists provide the snowshoes and lessons.
- **Wednesday, February 22 – Birds of Prey.** Get face to face to a Screech owl and discover this bird of prey’s unique characteristics firsthand! This program is led by Greenburgh Nature Center. Then, select your pellet, pick up your tweezers and go! Vicky Garufi, Beczak Environmental Education Center’s Director of Education, leads a hands-on owl pellet dissection. She says, “Kids love picking through the pellets and identifying what kind of bird or rodent the owl ate.”

- **Thursday, February 23 – Winter Gear.** Learn the ten essentials for winter / snow camping with REI. The day includes teambuilding games and activities using the latest GPS, stoves, tents and more, plus winter adventure stories.
- **Friday, February 24 – Winter Survival Skills.** Survival is based on using the materials at hand. Kids learn this truth by building winter shelters, campfires and rescue sleds . . . out of Hudson River driftwood! Jason Muller, Educator with Beczak Environmental Education Center, teaches skills through games, play and friendly competition.

All programs take place at Beczak Environmental Education Center.

“He liked everything! My son couldn’t stop talking about the tents, campfire and the Eagle Scout to come to visit!” feedback from last year’s Winter Recess Program at Beczak Environmental Education Center

HUDSON RIVER VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION INSTITUTE (HRVEEI)

Hudson River Valley Environmental Education Institute, with classrooms and beach access in Yonkers, NY, and Sleepy Hollow, NY, is the lower Hudson's hub for river education. It offers many programs that involve all ages in learning about nature and enjoying the outdoors. *Where you learn to love your river!*

HRVEEI staff work with approximately 20,000 children and families each year through river-based programming for students during the week and weekend public programs including *River Explorers* and *Fish Tales* for children, *RiverTalks* lectures and *Urban H₂O* concerts for adults, *Lunchtime Learning* for seniors, *Summer Adventures* camp, and professional development for educators.

Beczak Environmental Education Center

HRVEEI’s flagship site is Beczak Environmental Education Center, located on the banks of the Hudson in the City of Yonkers. It celebrated its 20th anniversary of incorporation in 2010. This spacious interpretive center, named after Yonkers environmentalist Joe Beczak, is an adaptive reuse of the former social club for Habirshaw Cable & Wire Co. Its two-acre park features a welcoming riverfront lawn, an easily accessible tidal marsh and a beach used for river exploration.

Kathryn W. Davis RiverWalk Center

HRVEEI offers river education at the Kathryn W. Davis RiverWalk Center in Sleepy Hollow, NY, which opened in 2011. Scenic Hudson spearheaded the renovation of the historic 1926 Kingsland Point Park bathhouse into a center for river-based education and recreation, named for philanthropist Kathryn W. Davis. This facility features a sandy beach used for river exploration and indoor/outdoor classroom space.

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