

# Young Investigators:

## Save the Dates!

### Connecting Children with Nature Through Project Work

Location: Iowa Lakeside Laboratory Regents Resource Center, 1838 Iowa Highway 86, Milford, IA



Sept 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>  
Oct 26<sup>th</sup>  
Nov 30<sup>th</sup>  
2012

**Trainers: Dr. Judy Harris Helm, co-author of Young Investigators: The Project Approach in the Early Years, and Rebecca Wilson, Educ. Consultant**

#### Apply to be part of Cohort 1

- Cohort 1 (2012-2014)
- Cohort 2 (2013-2015)
- Cohort 3 (2014-2016)

Professional Development Credits Available  
See FAQ document for fees and potential funding sources

[Use this Live Link to Apply](#)



#### Apply as a Team: 4-7 Members Required

1. Early Childhood Administrative Personnel
2. SWVPP Teacher
3. SWVPP Associate Teacher
4. SWVPP Partner
  - Head Start Coordinator
  - Head Start Teacher
  - Head Start Assistant Teacher
  - ECSE Teacher, Associates
  - Private Preschool Teacher, Associates
  - T-K, Kindergarten Teacher, Associates

#### Nature Connections Planning Committee:

UDMO Head Start/Early Head Start, Iowa Lakeside Laboratory Regents Resource Center, Prairie Lakes AEA 8, Early Childhood Iowa: Lakes Region, Creative Ventures, Dickinson Co. Conservation Board & Foundation, Friends of Lakeside Laboratory, Patrice Leary Foundation, Area Naturalists & Educators, Iowa DNR

#### Goals of the Sessions:

##### Session One: Participants will learn how to

- define project approach and the benefits of project work for mind/brain learning.
- describe the phases of a project.
- identify worthwhile topics, especially those with potential for STEM experiences.
- survey the outdoor environment and generate a list of possible nature topics.

##### Session Two: Participants will learn how to

- do anticipatory planning which enables integration of goals and standards into project work while supporting children's initiation and decision-making.
- web with children (introduction to children of the use of graphic organizer).
- focus attention on a topic, especially in the outdoors.
- teach important project skills.

##### Session Three: Participants will learn how to

- plan field site visits.
- plan interviews of experts.
- help children represent their learning including observational sketching outdoors.
- determine what to save and how to organize a collection of children's work in the project.
- guide child self-reflections and bring a project to close.

##### Session Four: Participants will learn how to

- evaluate and expand their project work.
- extend questions and investigation.
- create meaningful display and to share their project.
- enrich reading and writing experiences in project work.
- involve second language learners in project work.

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Nature Connections Institute