

WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTRODUCTION TO OUTDOOR LIVING

Waukegan, IL (April 22, 2014) . . . The Waukegan Park District is offering a four week Introduction to Outdoor Living program beginning on May 3 and ending with an overnight camping trip on May 31. The program offers youth ages 8-12 and parents an opportunity to gain knowledge and skills needed to have fun and enjoy camping and outdoor life. Classroom and hands on experience develop practical camping and outdoor skills. The lessons conclude with an overnight camping trip at Illinois Beach State Park.

Lessons:

- **May 3: Campsite Prep and Setup Challenge:** Two teams will develop an effective pre-camping plan and experience how to safely and efficiently set up camp.
- **May 10: Fire Building Technique:** Build a fire from a spark and learn how to control the fire for cooking. A tasty treat will also be provided.
- **May 24: Cooking With Coals:** Build a fire from scratch. Chop, cut, and season ingredients to create a delicious meal of Hobo Stew.
- **May 31: Family Camping Trip:** Head to Illinois Beach State Park for a night of outdoor fun and use of your new camping skills!

Participants should dress for the weather; programs will be held outdoors. The fee of \$40 residents/\$48 nonresidents includes parent, child and all supplies. Each additional person is \$30. All classes begin at 2pm at the Jane Addams Center in Bowen Park. Pre-registration is required. For more information, please call (847) 360-4700 or visit www.waukeganparks.org

About the Waukegan Park District

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 47 properties and 720 acres of land, including the 18-hole Bonnie Brook and 9-hole Greenshire Golf Courses. Properties are managed to the highest environmental and conservation standards. Facilities operated by the district include the Field House Sports and Fitness Center, the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, the Waukegan SportsPark, the Waukegan Skate Park, the Waukegan BMX Track, recreational centers, an outdoor swimming pool, disc golf course, dog exercise area, outdoor sports fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, and sports courts including basketball and tennis. A full range of programs and services are offered year round for all ages, from infants to seniors as well as special needs populations. Healthy lifestyles, wellness initiatives, and a connection with the outdoors and nature are integrated throughout programs, services, and special events. Cultural events are provided by the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, the Bowen Park Theatre Company, and the Waukegan History Museum. There is something for everyone! The award-winning District employs 57 full-time and over 250 part-time, year round, seasonal, and temporary employees. The District is a member of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD), and Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA). The district maintains national accreditation from the NRPA Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), the Illinois Association of Park Districts' (IAPD) Distinguished Agency accreditation and the Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) accreditation and sustains a Level A Loss Control Program. The district was a NRPA Gold Medal Finalist in 2012 and 2013, and awarded the NRPA National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in 2013.

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