The BioBlitz Jr. Scientist Program

Students selected as Jr. Scientists for the 2016 Connecticut BioBlitz will have an unique opportunity to work side-by-side with notable scientists from respected institutions throughout the region. The program begins on Friday, June 3rd at 3pm with check-in and setup followed by a tour, dinner and introduction at a reception for BioBlitz supporters. The students will start interacting with the scientists at 7pm, continuing through midnight. Then, on Saturday, students will get an early start at 7am to observe birds. Students will rotate among collecting specimens, making presentations, and sorting and counting species throughout Saturday. The BioBlitz concludes at 3pm on June 4th with the official wrap-up ceremony and announcement of the total number of species discovered.

Middle and high school students interested in participating in the Jr. Scientist program should submit an application with an essay. Selected applicants will be notified and given detailed instructions regarding their participation.

All students and their families are welcome to attend the public portion of the BioBlitz on Saturday, June 4th from 10am to 3pm. Please contact Edmund Smith with questions about the Jr. Scientists program at esmith@crec.org.

The Connecticut State BioBlitz

The Connecticut State BioBlitz is a distinctive scientific endeavor - part contest, part festival, and part educational event. It brings together scientists from many universities and scientific institutions in a race against time to see how many species they can count in a 24-hour biological survey. The event generates energy and enthusiasm among scientists and lay people alike. It is rare for biologists from many disciplines to have the opportunity to get together, share their scholarly passions with each other and the public, and work toward a single common goal.

The public has the opportunity to observe the scientists' activities, to interact with them, and to participate in other city-wide activities presented by the BioBlitz partners and a host of nature-oriented organizations. The Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and UConn's Center for Conservation and Biodiversity, both part of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Connecticut, have directed BioBlitz since it began in 1999. The Dorr Foundation, Goodwin College, Friends of Keney Park, the Connecticut Science Center, and a growing list of organizations have teamed up to host the 2016 Connecticut State BioBlitz.

BioBlitz Central” will be at Two Rivers Magnet Middle School with “blitzing” occurring at nearby Keney Park, along the Connecticut River, and in other nearby locations.

The driving force behind BioBlitz is its scientific mission to survey the diversity of animal and plant life in an urban area. The past seven BioBlitzes have yielded dozens of scientific discoveries, rare species, and new state records for Connecticut. Each BioBlitz generates specimens for teaching and research collections in the region. BioBlitz is a celebration of the diversity of life in our backyards, providing valuable information about the natural world and deeper understanding of the extent to which urban and suburban areas are sustaining the richness of Connecticut's biodiversity. For additional information please visit http://web.uconn.edu/mnh/bioblitz/ or call (860) 486-4460.

Student Application

Name: ____________________________________________ Grade: ________________________

Date of Birth: ________________________________  School: ____________________________

Home Address: ___________________________________________  Home Phone: __________

E-Mail: ____________________________________________

Please list your top three areas of interest in order of preference. Selected from the list below or include different areas that better describe your interests.

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1. _____________________ 2. _____________________ 3. ____________________

The Essay: Please write an essay of no more than 500 words explaining why you should be selected to participate as a Jr. Scientist in the 2016 Connecticut BioBlitz. We are looking for students who are truly interested by natural history and/or biological research. Attach your essay to this application.

What adult in your life has been instrumental in developing your interest in natural history? (We would like to invite this person to attend the BioBlitz.)

Name: _______________________________  Relationship: _______________________________

Phone: _______________________________  E-Mail: ________________________________

Parent/Guardian Permission: I give my permission for ____________________________ to apply for participation in the 2016 Connecticut BioBlitz. I understand that this is an overnight, as well as an outdoor, activity.

Signature of Parent/Guardian       Date

Application form and essay must be received by Monday, May 9th to be considered. Send to: Connecticut State Museum of Natural History 2019 Hillside Road, Unit 1023 Storrs, CT 06269

ATTN: Jr. BioBlitz Program
Attention Middle and High School Students!

- Do you like hunting for snakes and turtles?
- Tracking or observing wildlife?
- Bird Watching?
- Collecting and preserving plants or insects?
- Fishing?

If you have an interest in natural history or are thinking of going to college for a degree in biology, conservation, or natural resources, don’t miss your chance to participate in the 2016 Connecticut BioBlitz.

Fill out the enclosed application to be considered for a spot working alongside more than 100 scientists and researchers in a 24-hour race against the clock to identify as many species as possible living in the areas surrounding Hartford’s Keney Park, as well as the Connecticut River and floodplain forests adjacent to Two Rivers Magnet Middle School.

2016 Connecticut BioBlitz
Friday, June 3 - Saturday, June 4
Two Rivers Magnet Middle School and Keney Park
Hartford, Connecticut

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