


Background History

 Helmer Nature Center encompasses about 40 acres of diverse terrain in the Town of Irondequoit. The facility is owned and operated by the West Irondequoit Central School District as both an outdoor classroom and an environmental resource for the entire community. Throughout the landscape is evidence of the agricultural history of the property: terraced hillsides where grape vines once flourished, a discarded windmill and an occasional bit of fence or chestnut fence post.

In 1973, under the leadership of then superintendent Earle W. Helmer, the school board set aside this section of land to be preserved as an environmental study area. Over the past three decades, the facility has evolved into a vital component of the curriculum of the West Irondequoit Central School District and surrounding districts. HNC provides hands-on, integrated learning opportunities to countless learners from pre-school to adult with a focus on the five habitats and the creatures that inhabit them.

Facilities and Resources

- ✍ Over 40 acres of varied terrain including woods, meadow, wetlands and pond
- ✍ Approximately two miles of trails
- ✍ Specialty gardens
- ✍ Fire Circle
- ✍ Two outdoor amphitheatres
- ✍ Pond boardwalk and observation area
- ✍ Two indoor classrooms
- ✍ Maple Sugaring pavilion
- ✍ Snowshoes
- ✍ And most important...the award winning staff of educators, recipients of the prestigious Hugh Cumming Award, NYS Outdoor Educator and Monroe County Environmental Educator of the Year K-12.



Helmer Nature Center



West Irondequoit School District
Helmer Nature Center
154 Pinegrove Avenue
Irondequoit, NY 14617-2627
585-336-3035 phone
585-336-3193 fax
E-mail to:
Karen_Mazzola@westiron.monroe.edu

The mission of HNC is to utilize the natural world as a classroom in order to provide practical, integrated learning opportunities, foster environmental awareness, and promote the concept of global stewardship for life-long learners.

MISSION

School Programs

Throughout the year, HNC provides programs for students of all grade levels, pre-kindergarten through grade 12. Each program is designed to support NYS standards and uses individual student discovery for investigation of the environment.

These programs are free for West Irondequoit public schools. Fee schedules for other schools are available on request. Programs are by appointment only.

Suggested Programs

(Whole or Half-Day Sessions)

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ✓ Habitat Study | ✓ Rainforest |
| ✓ Seasonal Changes | ✓ Team Building |
| ✓ Endangered Species | ✓ Pond Study |
| ✓ Pioneer Life | ✓ Stream Study |
| ✓ Maple Sugaring | ✓ Birds |
| ✓ Snowshoeing | ✓ Insects |
| ✓ Project Wild | ✓ Trees |
| ✓ Taxonomy | ✓ Interdependence |
| ✓ Field Biology | ✓ Outdoor Cooking |
| ✓ Native American Studies | ✓ Global Positioning Technology |

Community

Helmer Nature Center has maintained a tradition of excellence in nature, environmental and outdoor education in Irondequoit and surrounding communities.

Annual Events

(open to the public)

Christmas Tree Recycling—January

Trivia Contest—February

Maple Sugar Festival—March

Fall Harvest Festival—October

Trim-A-Tree For Wildlife—December

After-School Events—Seasonally Scheduled

Outreach Programs

(available by advanced registration)

- Girl Scout Programs
- Boy Scout Programs
- Opportunities for Eagle Projects
- Opportunities for Service Projects

Additional Opportunities

Besides programs for schools and groups there are opportunities for individuals to join in nature center activities.

Membership

A variety of levels of membership are offered to the general public. Benefits include a quarterly newsletter, member's programs and discounts on snowshoe rentals and sugaring supplies.

Volunteer Opportunities

Helmer Nature Center offers a wide variety of volunteer opportunities, such as; material management, instructional assistants, trail work & gardening. If you have a special talent that you think we might need, please give us a call.

Additional Services

- In-service training for teachers and youth group leaders
- Environmental education internships and practicum experiences

About Helmer Nature Center

Owned and operated by the West Irondequoit School District, the objective of **HNC** is to utilize the natural world as a classroom in order to provide practical, integrated learning opportunities, foster environmental awareness, and promote the concept of global stewardship for all students.

To provide opportunities for families and individuals to participate in fun and educational activities, **HNC** offers a **membership program**. Everyone is invited to join and share the excitement. Typically, members events include day trips, craft workshops, films, lectures, wildlife presentations and other special events such as the annual Trivia Contest. Look for approx. two activities per month.

Additionally, membership provides **Helmer Nature Center** with much needed financial and moral support for the staff, the facilities and the programs.



West Irondequoit School District

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Helmer ❁ *Nature Center*



West Irondequoit School District

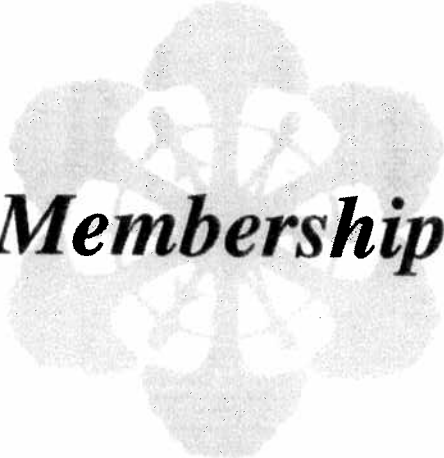
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Karen_Mazzola@westiron.monroe.edu



Membership

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

(Write exactly as it should appear on correspondence)

Membership Opportunities:	Sapling (Student)	\$10.00	Tulip Tree	\$60.00
	White Pine (Individual)	15.00	White Oak	100.00
	Willow	20.00	Sugar Maple	250.00
	Sassafras	35.00		

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Referred By: _____

Additional HNC lapel pins are available at a cost of \$1.00 per pin. Number of additional pins _____

Please make checks payable to:

Helmer Nature Center
154 Pinegrove Avenue
Rochester, New York 14617-2627

** All donations are tax deductible as per federal guidelines **

Membership Benefits

All membership levels receive:

- A **Membership card** and **HNC lapel pin**
- **Discounts** to annual Pancake Breakfast and other HNC sponsored community events
- **Free** admissions and discounts at nature centers across the U.S. through the **ANCA Reciprocal Fee Admission Program**.
- **Discounts** at Eastern Mountain Sports and other similar organizations/retail outlets that offer discounts for members of environmental organizations.
- Our seasonal newsletter, **The Ecolog**, provides advanced notification of annual and/or public events and will be mailed to your home or business.

HNC activities bring together people with common interests and are a great way to establish new friendships

Your contribution will aid in supporting local conservation & environmental education efforts.

Helmer Nature Center appreciates and relies on the financial and moral support of all its members to continue to provide excellence in education, in and about the natural world. Therefore, HNC offers a variety of membership options including \$10.00 for students, \$15.00 for individuals, \$20.00 for families and so on ...

Membership Opportunities

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\$15.00	White Pine	\$100.00	White Oak
\$20.00	Willow	\$250.00	Sugar Maple
\$35.00	Sassafras		