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# Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
4/18/17

## ENVIRONMENTAL NATURE CENTER PRESENTS SUMMER PROGRAM FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

*Children have fun and make friends while gaining leadership skills in an outdoor, hands-on setting.*

**Newport Beach, Calif., April 18, 2017** – The Environmental Nature Center (ENC) will present a summer program for middle school students, called “Order of the Raven.” Beginning June 26, 2017, the eight day long experience is an opportunity for students entering 7th and 8th grade to learn life skills, get in touch with their innate capacity for contribution, and prepare for the transitions ahead.

Ravens will practice useful life skills such as tracking, fire making, first aid and writing thank-you notes in a safe, cooperative environment. Order of the Raven is separate from the ENC’s regular Nature Camp (where campers range from kindergarten to 6th grade), Ravens will spend a little time almost every day teaching younger campers a skill. They will learn a new skill one day, and have the opportunity to teach that skill the next day.

“The Order of the Raven teaches valuable leadership and practical skills,” said ENC Education Director Lori Whalen. “We are excited to encourage our Ravens entering adolescence as they challenge themselves, explore new ideas, and learn skills.”

Ravens have the opportunity to do activities they couldn’t when they were younger, like perform a fish necropsy, or venture out into the community. Focused on establishing independence in the suburban jungle, Ravens will go on walking field trips to local businesses within a mile of the ENC for “behind the scenes” tours to places like Avanti Café, where they will learn to bake bread.

On their last day of camp Ravens will be the Leaders in Training, assisting Camp Teachers with younger campers. Afterwards they will walk to the Newport Aquatic Center and go kayaking to celebrate.

Since 1977, the ENC’s Nature Camp has provided quality science education in an outdoor, hands-on setting.

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**About the ENC**

Founded in 1972, the ENC is a fascinating combination of 15 California native plant communities, wildlife habitat, walking trails, and sustainably designed, LEED Platinum certified learning center. For over 40 years, the ENC has been shaped and caressed into a 5-acre landscape for learning, a sanctuary from life's pressures and a place of preservation and instruction. Serving over 21,000 students and thousands of visitors annually, the ENC is recognized as a leader in science and social science education providing opportunities for increasing our community's knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the natural world.

The ENC recently purchased property to develop a nature play area, and construct our community's first nature based preschool. With a mission of providing quality education through hands-on experience with nature, the ENC inspires all generations to protect the natural world by serving as our community's foremost authority on ecological responsibility, sustainable practices and environmental education. The ENC is a non-profit 501(c)-3 public benefit corporation. For more information call 949-645-8489, or visit [www.ENCenter.org](http://www.ENCenter.org). The ENC is located at 1601 16th St. in Newport Beach.

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