

Operation Purple Friends: Summer Camp for Military Kids
by Chris Conlon, UNH Cooperative Extension's 4-H Camps Manager

The war in Iraq and the global war on terrorism changed the face of our military and those who serve our country. These families need support. To help this coming summer, UNH Cooperative Extension's 4-H Camps will offer free week of summer camp to children of deployed parents.

UNH Cooperative Extension and the NH National Guard collaborated with the National Military Family Association and Sears, Roebuck and Co. to provide a summer camp experience for children of military families this summer.

This summer camp experience will provide a unique offering for those involved in the military and those involved with UNH Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development to create a community just for children of military families.

Are you, or do you know someone who is a member of any branch of the military service? Is there a child in the family who would like to go to camp this summer, free?

As a way to do something special for children from military families, ***Operation Purple Camp*** takes place at the University of New Hampshire's 4-H Bear Hill Camp from August 14 to August 19. UNH 4-H Bear Hill Camp is located in Bear Brook State Park in Allenstown.

The National Military Family Association (NMFA), through the financial support of Sears, developed the camps, 22 this year, as a way to get children from across the military services together to learn from one another and share their experiences in dealing with deployment-related stress.

They will learn about different cultures, share talents, gain new skills and most importantly, enjoy much-deserved carefree fun and treasured lifetime memories. The New Hampshire outdoors provides a natural learning environment that helps young people put the chaos of their every day life on the back burner for a week while having fun "being a kid." The UNH 4-H Youth Development program is dedicating a week of camp this coming summer to serve military youth from New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts and other states.

Funding for the Operation Purple at UNH 4-H Bear Hill Camp is from Sears, Roebuck and Co. Sears' partnership with NMFA is part of the Sears American Dream Campaign, the company's multi-year, \$100 million commitment to strengthen families, homes and communities.

Operation Purple Camp at UNH 4-H Bear Hill is available to children of military personnel, targeting kids 8-16 years of age. All are encouraged to apply.

The goal of Operation Purple at UNH 4-H Camp Bear Hill is to have all branches of service represented, with emphasis on those service branches from New Hampshire and the New England region. First priority will be to those youth who have a deployed or recently deployed parent (or other family member residing in the same house as camper). Deployment must occur from June 2004 to September 2006.

The registration process runs from April 15 to May 15. Families can call 603-862-2184 to get an application for Operation Purple at UNH 4-H Bear Hill Camp or visit the website at <http://extension.unh.edu/4H/4HCamps.htm> and click on the Register for Operation Purple. Click on the Operation Camp Purple logo to learn more about the program nationally.

Background Information

About NMFA

NMFA is a predominantly volunteer-operated 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization with a dedicated group of volunteer representatives, based around the world. These representatives are the “eyes and ears” of the association. Through their daily lives they embody the military lifestyle, including active duty, reserve, Guard and retirees. They also interact, educate and inform military families of their benefits. In so doing, they contribute to the association’s mission: to improve the quality of life for all military families through education, information and advocacy. For more information about the NMFA visit the association Web site at the following Web site address:
<http://www.nmfa.org/>.

About the Sears American Dream Campaign

Sears’ partnership with NMFA is part of the Sears American Dream Campaign, the company’s multi-year, \$100 million commitment to strengthen families, homes and communities. From helping low- and moderate-income homeowners nationwide outfit and maintain their homes to assisting victims of natural disasters to providing thousands of children with new apparel, the Sears American Dream Campaign is making a meaningful difference in communities across the nation. For more information about the Sears American Dream Campaign, visit the campaign Web site at
<http://www.searsamericandream.com/>



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Only 81 days until Camp Begins!

4-H Camps

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Camps

The following is a description of NH 4-H Camps 2005. To print an application in PDF format, please click here - "[NH 4-H Camps Application](#)". You may also print the entire [4-H Camp brochure](#). To receive this information and an application through the mail, please email [Chris Conlon](#) or call 603-862-2184 with your name and mailing address. Thank You!

- Overnight and Day Camp Programs
- Choose from 6 different camp programs
- Attend 1, 2, 4, or 8 sessions, or any combination of weeks and programs
- Non-profit camp includes ALL youth.
- Special needs accommodated!
- 4-H membership not required
- Kids from New Hampshire, New England, across America and from around the world welcome to attend!
- Operated by UNH Cooperative Extension
- Accredited by the American Camping Association
- Leaders-In-Training program for 14-16 year olds
- NH 4-H Camps offer the finest programs at affordable rates
- All Camp Programs emphasize the development of the individual camper's life skills: Communication, decision making abilities, independence, social skills, accepting differences, health and fitness, problem solving, teamwork, and cooperative group living
- "Learning by Doing" (the 4-H motto) is emphasized throughout all camp programs - Campers actively participate in all activities of camp, with the greatest benefit being the development of healthy relationships with other campers and adults

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Barry Conservation Camp

Location: Berlin Fish Hatchery, Berlin, NH

Barry Conservation Camp, located in the White Mountain National Forest, is offered in cooperation with the NH Department of Fish and Game. Barry provides a close-knit community for its 35 campers and 8 staff. Nearby York Pond provides swimming and canoeing for the camp. There are 5 cabins, housing up to 7 campers and a counselor in each. Central toilet and shower facilities, as well as a dining hall and kitchen, accommodate the camp. A great program for kids who love the outdoors, can benefit from participating in a small camp, and enjoy hands-on learning in environmental and conservation programs. Barry Conservation Camp staff pride themselves in creating a special place where kids can discover their strengths, work together as a team, and leave camp with a greater awareness of themselves and the world around them.

- Overnight Camp - 5 days - Sunday afternoon through Friday afternoon. This camp program is great for kids who will benefit from a smaller camp with greater individualized attention and who enjoy learning about a wide variety of environmental issues
- Program Focus: Shooting sports including safe gun handling, environmental exploration, hatchery tours, fishing, canoeing, swimming, orienteering, hiking, wildlife studies, and weekly programs with Conservation officers and Fish and Game staff
- Specialty Program Week - July 11 - July 16 - for youth 12-16 years old, lead by staff from NH Fish & Game Department, with emphasis on Hunter Education and Let's Go Fishing programs.
- 35 campers maximum
- Designed for ages 10-15 years (must have completed grade 5)

For more information, questions, or to discuss the appropriateness of NH 4-H Camps for your child, please call 603-862-2184 or e-mail [Chris Conlon](mailto:Chris.Conlon@unh.edu), Camps Manager.

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Bear Hill Camp

Location: Bear Brook State Park, Allenstown, NH

Bear Hill Camp is a traditional, rustic camp located deep in the woods, with its own lake for boating and swimming. Campers live in cabins of 4-6 kids, grouped by age and gender, with 1-2 counselors per cabin. Cabins are arranged in units of 8 cabins, with each unit having its own lodge and a central restroom with toilets and running water. There are two shower facilities accommodating campers and staff. Bear Hill Camp is approximately 30 minutes from Concord and Manchester.

- Program Focus At Bear Hill Camp for Overnight, Mini and Day Camp: Swimming, arts and crafts, nature, outdoor education, environmental activities, canoeing, and FUN!
- Recommended for campers who will benefit from a social environment stressing cooperation, group living skills, and environmental appreciation, who will appreciate diversity in campers and staff, and who will enjoy participating in large and small group activities.
- Average of 100 campers in Overnight Camp, 40 campers in Day Camp, and 12 in LIT program.

Choose from the following:

- **Traditional Overnight Camp** - 5 days - Sunday afternoon to Friday afternoon, great general camp experience for kids ages 6-14 years. Highly recommended for the camper who would benefit from an outdoor program, with emphasis on cooperation and community living
- **Mini-Camp** - 3 days - Overnight Camp from Sunday afternoon to Wednesday morning. Perfect for first timers or younger children!
- **Day Camp** - 5 days - Monday - Friday, 8:30 - 4:30 pm. For campers ages 6-14 years.
- **Teen Discovery Program - NEW!** - Teen Discovery programs are offered as an addition or an alternative to the regular 5 day sessions! Two 2 week specialty programs are for campers, ages 12 years or older. Participants will explore a variety of challenging activities in a small group setting, with a maximum of 12 campers for the 2 week session. Campers must be able to attend both weeks of the session and will go home over the weekend. As part of the Bear Hill Camp family, Teen Discovery Campers will participate in regular camp activities and in special programs designed for their two week session. Participants can attend one or both sessions!
 - **Great Outdoors Adventure:** Taking advantage of the beautiful state park setting of Bear Hill Camp, participants will learn about New Hampshire's natural resources, visit with Park professionals, receive hands-on experience in trail construction and/or enhancement, participate in high ropes course, plan a camping trip, canoe and more! Highly recommended for teens who love the outdoors and have an interest in our state's natural resources and parks system.
 - **Aquatic Adventures:** With water all around our gorgeous state, what better way to discover a future career! Campers will participate in American Red Cross CPR, first aid, small craft safety and GuardStart, a new curriculum for future lifeguards. Participants will visit an area pool and other waterfronts. Highly recommended for the young teen who swims well, loves the water, and wants to lifeguard when she/he is older!
- **Leaders-In-Training (LIT) Program** - This 2 week program is designed for teens, ages 14 years and older. The emphasis on team building and developing leadership skills in a child-oriented setting. Skills learned will be useful for entry into today's working world! LITs learn CPR and first aid, study child development, help with activity leadership at Bear Hill Camp, visit and work at other camps, tour UNH campus, plan group leisure time activities, and learn about themselves as they work together in a group, helping each member achieve her/his best! LITs go home each weekend and must be able to attend both weeks of the session.
- **Mentor Program - NEW!** - An advanced program for teens, ages 15 years and older, to learn the responsibilities and job requirements of various staff

positions at Bear Hill Camp. Participants choose one specialty from the following: Counselor, Food Service, Maintenance, and Administrative Support. Each camper will be mentored by the professional staff, including Camp Director, in these jobs at camp. Maximum participation will not exceed 6 campers per session. Participants in the 2001 LIT program encouraged to apply! All participants go home over the weekend. Additional application and interview required.

Family Weekend:



Feeling the need for some quality family time? Have you found yourself playing catch up with your kids by talking to them on their cell phones? Or "IM"ing them? Are you busy multi-tasking for yourself and your children? Balancing time, activities and life's day to day moments is beginning to cause pressure for many families.

How about carving out a weekend just for the family?

Come back to summer camp as a family! You are invited to attend the 2nd Annual Family Weekend at Bear Hill 4-H Camp. This year's weekend has been scheduled for June 3-5, 2005 --so stop right now--check your calendar. Can you make it? We hope so! Last year's weekend was so much fun, that we are sure you will not want to miss out on this year's, which will be filled with fun, fellowship and family!

Families are invited to arrive Friday evening after dinner and stay until Sunday afternoon. Some of the weekend activities may include swimming, canoeing, hiking, crafts, group games, archery, fishing and other camp favorites. All activities will be led by camp staff with ample opportunity for families to "do their own thing". Meals will be single menu and served family style in our beautiful dining hall.

I am confident that last year's campers would agree with me when I say that this is a great opportunity to come to camp, play, and enjoy the beauty of Bear Brook State Park!

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[Family Weekend Registration Form](#)

Please contact the UNH 4-H Camps office at 603-862-2132 with any questions and we will be glad to help you, send out an application, and answer any questions you have.

Come join us and add a great paragraph to your families' next year's holiday letter!!!

UNH 4-H Camps "Where the learning lasts a lifetime."

For more information, questions, or to discuss the appropriateness of NH 4-H Camps for your child, please call 603-862-2184 or e-mail [Chris Conlon](#), Camps Manager.

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Directions for Applying to NH 4-H Camps

1. Complete [the application](#), choosing the camp(s) and session(s) which best fit your needs. **ONLY 1 CAMPER PER APPLICATION!** Please feel free to photocopy the application as needed.
2. Mail application to: UNH Cooperative Extension Business Service Center, 59 College Road, Taylor Hall, Durham, NH 03824. **BE SURE TO INCLUDE THE \$50 DEPOSIT REQUIRED OR YOUR APPLICATION WILL NOT BE PROCESSED.**
3. Within 3 weeks of receiving your application, you will receive from NH 4-H Camps a confirmation of the camp(s) and session(s) chosen, an invoice of balance due, additional paperwork/forms, and a Parents' Handbook which answers many of the additional questions you will have before sending your child to NH 4-H Camps!
4. Call the Camp Office at UNH at 603-862-2184 with your questions.

For more information, questions, or to discuss the appropriateness of NH 4-H Camps for your child, please call 603-862-2184 or e-mail [Chris Conlon](#), Camps Manager.

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Frequently Asked Questions

1. *How do I know which camp is best for my child?*

Each camp is unique in its location and programs. We encourage families to review their options and discuss with their child which camp(s) will best meet their needs!

Bear Hill Camp is recommended for:

- Campers, age 6-14 years
- Counselors-In-Training, age 14-16 years
- Campers interested in attending Bear Hill Day Camp
- Campers interested in attending Mini-Camp (Sunday to Wednesday)
- Campers who enjoy a wide variety of camp activities
- Campers who like to participate in large and small groups
- Campers who will benefit from a social environment stressing cooperation, group living skills, and environmental appreciation
- Campers who appreciate diversity in campers and staff
- Campers who need easy access from Concord and Manchester areas

Barry Conservation Camp is recommended for:

- Campers age 10-14 years, having completed 5th grade
- Campers who want to learn about safe gun handling and hunter safety topics
- Campers who enjoy environmental issues, conservation practices, and outdoor education
- Campers who benefit from being in a smaller camp of only 30 kids

2. *Who are the counselors who take care of my child?*

NH 4H Camps recruits counselors from around the state, the country, and the world! Many of our staff come from Europe, adding a unique aspect to your child's camp experience! The average age range of counselors is 17 to 25 years old. Food service, health care, program, supervisory and administrative staff are specifically trained and possess relevant certification, training, and/or education. After an interview, reference checks, and other screening methods, all staff participate in a mandatory pre-camp orientation. During this time, staff members are trained in the areas of child development, behavior management, activity leadership, health care and first aid, risk management and safety issues, and other topics relevant to the maintenance of a safe and healthy camp environment. NH 4-H Camps staff are dedicated to providing your child with a fabulously fun and richly rewarding summer camp experience, with memories to last a lifetime!

3. *How much does camp cost?*

Costs vary for camp, depending upon when you register and what programs you choose. The earlier a family registers their child for camp, the less it costs! Early registration deadlines are February 1st and May 1st. **A \$75 deposit is due with each application and will be deducted from the total camp fee. This deposit is non-refundable and MUST accompany each application in order for the application to be processed. Balance of all Camp Fees are due by May 15, 2004.**

4. *What if I can't afford the camp fees?*

We encourage families to seek financial help in their own communities. Call your Conservation Committee, county Cooperative Extension office, local service organizations (Rotary Club, Lion's Club, etc.), talk with your school guidance counselor or principal, contact area Human Service organizations, or call our office for more suggestions. NH 4H Camps sometimes has **limited** Camperships available to help support families who need assistance with the camp fees, on a first come first serve basis.

5. *Want to get involved? Here's how!*

For more information, questions, or to discuss the appropriateness of NH 4-H Camps for your child, please call 603-862-2184 or e-mail [Chris Conlon](mailto:Chris.Conlon@unh.edu), Camps Manager.

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Help NH 4-H Camps serve you and your child better!

- OPEN HOUSE - Sunday, June 6, 2004, 2-4 pm. Come tour Bear Hill Camp, meet staff, and enjoy an afternoon at camp! Strongly recommended for first-time NH 4-H Camp families.
- FAMILY WORK DAY - Saturday, May 8, 2004, 10 am - 4 pm. Come help us get camp ready for the summer! Spend the day at Bear Hill Camp painting, raking, moving stuff, setting up the waterfront, stacking wood, and a little bit of everything else! Call for more information - 603-862-2184 or 485-9046
- [Invitation from Camp Director](#)

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Work at NH 4-H Camps

The following positions need you or someone you know to fill them this summer:

- Food Service - cooks, food prep, and dishwashers
- Activity Leaders - crafts, lifeguards, nature, games, music, dance, drama, what are your talents?!
- Cabin Counselors - Play, live, and work with kids

Summer Camps Staff:

New Hampshire 4-H Camps are accepting applications for summer employment. To apply download the application below and mail to:

NH 4-H Camps
Moiles House
180 Main Street
Durham, NH 03824

Additionally, each applicant must have three letters of reference submitted on their behalf. Please download the reference form below and ask the three references listed on your application to complete.

- [Summer Staff Application](#)
- [Reference Form](#)
- [International Staff Manual](#)

For more information e-mail [Chris Conlon](#) , Camps Manager.

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