



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release
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New England Science & Sailing

NESS Announces New Summer Programs in New London

New London, CT - New England Science & Sailing Foundation (NESS) announced today two new programs to serve New London.

First, NESS is bringing New London Community Boating (NLCB) under its umbrella to provide an enhanced array of ocean adventure programs to students of New London. NESS is assuming responsibility for managing the NLCB summer sailing program at Greens Harbor Beach and is retaining the New London Community Boating brand name. NESS President Spike Lobdell remarked, "Managing NLCB enables NESS to offer a greater variety of programs as we work year-round with the children of New London."

Second, NESS is expanding its offerings at Ocean Beach Park to include marine science and kayaking programs this summer for children, adults, and families. Ocean Beach Park Manager Dave Sugrue observed, "With these new programs, NESS is broadening opportunities for public access and education related to Ocean Beach and surrounding waters."

These moves strengthen NESS's already considerable commitment to New London and align well with its core values of inclusiveness, experiential learning, personal growth, and stewardship. NESS has been partnering for three years with New London Public Schools and last year expanded their partnerships to include Ocean Beach Park and Mitchell College. As NESS Executive Director Cindy Nickerson indicated, "Developing strategic partnerships within New London enables us to better serve our students in their community with our innovative experiential learning programs."

NLCB Executive Director Carolyn Leuze and President Katie Bradford are enthusiastic about joining forces with NESS. Leuze remarked, "We have been a part of many New London activities which give the children a great sense of place and belonging and now NESS will be undertaking the fulfillment of a dream we had so many years ago by continuing our summer sailing program." NESS Sailing Program Director Mark Zagol added, "We're currently busy preparing for NLCB's summer program - hiring staff and as soon as the weather cooperates we'll be prepping boats. Carolyn and Katie have built a wonderful program, and we're delighted to add NLCB to our program line-up for New London students."

Also new this year, NESS is offering two types of programs for the public at Ocean Beach Park. Weekly morning and afternoon marine science classes, called "Alewife Explorers," for children ages 7 to 10 years old will include kayaking and snorkeling activities under a different adventurous theme each week. And daily 2-hour morning and afternoon guided kayaking excursions for adults and families will explore the winding salt marsh creek, Alewife Cove, and Fishers Island Sound. NESS Program Director Mary Horrigan commented, "Ocean Beach and Alewife Cove are incredible resources, right here in New London, and we want to give residents and visitors the opportunity to explore them through engaging adventures."

Since 2010, NESS has transitioned from a sailing-only summer program into a year-round ocean adventure program, which last year engaged 3,200 students in experiential learning to build confidence, teamwork, and leadership skills.

More and more New London students are adventuring at NESS. Thanks to successful partnerships, NESS will now operate out of four locations in New London: its STEM classroom at Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School, with the NESS SEA AmeriCorps Program; its Ocean Beach Park location; Mitchell College's docks, where it provides high school sailing team coaching; and Greens Harbor Beach, where NLCB operates. With these locations, NESS serves New London students in their community, as well as in Stonington, nearly every week-day, year-round. The NESS staff continues to build its ocean adventure curriculum incorporating engaging, "hands-wet" activities, including STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) concepts and the US Sailing REACH modules.

For more information, please see NESS's website www.nessf.org.

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