



National Wildlife Federation's Great Lakes Regional Center Hosts 2th Annual Great American Backyard Campout

Families to Enjoy the Great Outdoors and Sleep Under the Stars on June 26, 2010

Ann Arbor, Mi. (June 16, 2010) — Over 45 local families will discover how much fun it is to spend the night under the stars by pitching their tents at the **National Wildlife Federation's Great American Backyard Campout** at the **Leslie Science and Nature Center** on June 26, 2010.

This year marks the 6th annual NWF Great American Backyard Campout and 2nd annual campout event hosted by the NWF Great Lakes Regional Center and the Leslie Science and Nature Center. The event at the Leslie Science and Nature Center has sold out for the second year in a row, and registration for the 2010 campout is now closed.

Campout activities will include campfires, a scavenger hunt, storytelling, a special program on bats sponsored by Critter Catchers, and nature hikes -- including a night hike and an early-morning bird walk.

American childhood has moved indoors during the last two decades, taking a mental and physical toll on today's kids. It is more important than ever to help get kids outside and enjoy nature, whether it be in their backyard, at a park or, at the Lake Michigan shoreline. Studies show outdoor time helps children grow lean and strong, enhances imaginations and attention spans, decreases aggression, and boosts classroom performance. In addition, children who spend time in nature regularly are shown to become better stewards of the environment.

"Camping under the stars is something simple that families can do to promote happier, healthier children. Kids who experience nature through outdoor activities develop into better stewards of the natural world, which is critical for future generations and our planet." says Andy Buchsbaum, Regional Executive Director of the National Wildlife Federation Great Lakes Regional Center.

Thousands of people across the country will gather in backyards, neighborhoods, communities, and parks for the National Wildlife Federation's Great American Backyard Campout one-night

event created to get kids and families outdoors enjoying nature together. Participants from all over the country can share their campout stories and photos on the National Wildlife Federation's website at www.nwf.org/campout.

"Camping out can help children connect with nature in a new way and help instill a love of the outdoors in everyone," says Greta Brunschwyler, Executive Director of the Leslie Science & Nature Center.

National Wildlife Federation

National Wildlife Federation is the nation's conservation organization inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future. The organization focuses their efforts on finding solutions to global warming, protecting wildlife habitat, and connecting people to nature. The NWF Great Lakes Regional Center is a leader in protecting the Great Lakes for the wildlife and humans that depend on this invaluable resource.

Leslie Science and Nature Center

The Leslie Science and Nature Center is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to provide youth with educational experiences that foster understanding, appreciation, excitement and respect for the natural environment and that also generate responsible environmental stewardship in recognition of the legacy of Dr. Eugene and Mrs. Emily Leslie.

Critter Catchers

Michigan Based Critter Catchers was founded in 2005 by David Kugler, an Oakland University graduate holding a Bachelors of Science in Biology, and a Masters Degree in Environmental Engineering from Wayne State University. The Company provides animal removal services in SE Michigan and specializes in human bat removal.

www.crittercatchersinc.com

248-432-2712

MediaContacts:

Jennifer Janssen, National Wildlife Federation, at (734) 887-7114, janssenj@nwf.org

###