September 15, 2014

School number and name

Address

zip

Dear Principal name,

This year, the as part of the **“2014 Harlem River Festival”** we will be extending activities. We hope that your school will be able to join us.  Plans include a week of events centering on the Bronx’ waterfronts from Roberto Clemente State Park and Van Cortlandt Park to around the borough’s east coast in Pelham Bay Park, which has docks providing access onto the water.

* **From PUT IN YOUR DATE, *the Wilderness Inquiry* programming will help make this our best event yet, enabling us to provide hundreds of school children (5th Grade and older) a chance to get into large (and supervised) canoes to learn firsthand about the river.**
* On **Saturday, October 11**, the community will have a chance to attend and participate in what can only be described as a street fair on the land and in the water. This will be held at Roberto Clemente State Park along the Harlem River.

This is the fourth annual public event organized by the *Harlem River Working Group (HRWG),* a group of community organizations, governmental agencies and other commercial stakeholders, focused on improving environmental quality and access to and along the Harlem River -- from the Randall’s Island to the Hudson River in Bronx County, New York City. Formed in 2009, we have met monthly to organize and develop goals to ensure that a green corridor is established along as much of the length of the Harlem as possible, with habitat buffer, bike and walking path greenways and river access points.

**We would like to invite your school to participate in the school canoe event.  We are able offer the opportunity for up to 10 Bronx schools for 48 to 54 students to ride in six 24-foot voyager canoes on the Harlem River during the week of October 6-9.  Each canoe has one adult captain and you can add from 3-6 teachers, aides, parents, or let us choose one of our agency or community representatives. We have scheduled two concurrent sessions Monday through Friday from 10 am to 1 pm.  The students will have a fun time learning how to canoe, and first hand experiences of the ecology, science, history, and geography of the Harlem River in an hour long canoe trip.  We will also be supplementing this on water experience with an on land educational component that has been developed by the Harlem River Working Group in conjunction with the U.S. Park Service (Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program), U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Geological Survey, the NYS State Department of Environmental Conservation, among others.**

If you think this is exciting and want to be a part of our plans, please RSVP for this educational activity as soon as possible as we only have slots for two schools each day and space will be going quickly. Make certain that all participating students and staff fill out the attached waiver. Also you might suggest that students and staff view the Wilderness Inquiry’s online video to be prepared for their trip on the Harlem River.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/WildernessInquiry>

<http://www.wildernessinquiry.org/programs/youth.php>

Wilderness Inquiry (WI) is an experienced adventure organization who have collaborate with the NPS to take urban school students on trips in the Mississippi River and others. WI has agreed to provide trips to students on the Harlem River at no cost to our schools. Please remember to pack school lunches for students.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.  If you have any questions, you can contact Put your name, phone number and email here or [rsvp@bceq.org](mailto:rsvp@bceq.org) to make a reservation.   Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Put your name here

September 15, 2014

This is for the Harlem River and Van Cortlandt Park

PS 361 Highbridge Green

200 West 167th Street

Bronx, New York 10452

Dear Principal Brillante,

This year, the **“2014 Harlem River Festival”** will be a week of celebration on the land and the water and we hope that your school will be able to join us.  Plans include a week of events centering on the Bronx’ own New York State Park:  *Roberto Clemente State Park*, which has docks providing access onto the water.

* **From Monday, October 6 to Thursday, October 9, 2014, *the Wilderness Inquiry* programming will help make this our best event yet, enabling us to provide hundreds of school children (5th Grade and older) a chance to get into large (and supervised) canoes to learn firsthand about the river.**
* On **Saturday, October 11**, the community will have a chance to attend and participate in what can only be described as a street fair on the land and in the water.

This is the fourth annual public event organized by the *Harlem River Working Group (HRWG),* a group of community organizations, governmental agencies and other commercial stakeholders, focused on improving environmental quality and access to and along the Harlem River -- from the Randall’s Island to the Hudson River in Bronx County, New York City. Formed in 2009, we have met monthly to organize and develop goals to ensure that a green corridor is established along as much of the length of the Harlem as possible, with habitat buffer, bike and walking path greenways and river access points.

**We would like to invite your school to participate in the school canoe event.  We are able offer the opportunity for up to 10 Bronx schools for 48 to 54 students to ride in six 24-foot voyager canoes on the Harlem River during the week of October 6-9.  Each canoe has one adult captain and you can add from 3-6 teachers, aides, parents, or let us choose one of our agency or community representatives. We have scheduled two concurrent sessions Monday through Friday from 10 am to 1 pm.  The students will have a fun time learning how to canoe, and first hand experiences of the ecology, science, history, and geography of the Harlem River in an hour long canoe trip.  We will also be supplementing this on water experience with an on land educational component that has been developed by the Harlem River Working Group in conjunction with the U.S. Park Service (Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program), U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Geological Survey, the NYS State Department of Environmental Conservation, among others.**

If you think this is exciting and want to be a part of our plans, please RSVP for this educational activity as soon as possible as we only have slots for two schools each day and space will be going quickly. Make certain that all participating students and staff fill out the attached waiver. Also you might suggest that students and staff view the Wilderness Inquiry’s online video to be prepared for their trip on the Harlem River.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/WildernessInquiry>

<http://www.wildernessinquiry.org/programs/youth.php>

Wilderness Inquiry (WI) is an experienced adventure organization who have collaborate with the NPS to take urban school students on trips in the Mississippi River and others. WI has agreed to provide trips to students on the Harlem River at no cost to our schools. Please remember to pack school lunches for students.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.  If you have any questions, you can contact Chauncy at [646-719-0034](tel:646-719-0034) or [harlemriver@bceq.org](mailto:harlemriver@bceq.org) to make a reservation.   Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Karen Argenti Chauncy Young

Karen Argenti and Chauncy Young