



A special e-publication for the personal use of NJAGC members

**A MEMBERS-ONLY BENEFIT!
March 2017**

Dear NJAGC Members,

Welcome to the 84th edition of NewsNet, the electronic newsletter provided for our valued NJAGC members! We've come upon so many interesting events that we're sending out another NewsNet so you won't miss out on these outstanding opportunities!

Be a part of NewsNet. Send happenings of interest throughout NJ for families of gifted students as well as educators, to Lenore Argen at argenhouse@msn.com. Your input will be appreciated by all who enjoy this publication!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

**NJAGC 26th Annual Conference
Friday, March 17, 2017
The Conference Center at Mercer**

This is a unique opportunity of networking and professional development with the gifted community statewide and beyond.

Our Keynote Speaker, Dr. Del Siegle, serves as director of the National Center for Research on Gifted Education. He is a professor in gifted and talented education and Head of the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Connecticut.

Walk in registrations are welcome. Come join us!

Visit www.njagc.org often for new and updated information and exhibitor registration.

Whether you are new to the gifted community or a long-time advocate, you are bound to find the **SENG Conference** a rewarding and empowering event. With programming for parents, children, and educators, you'll be inspired, moved, and energized. Also expect to make some life-long friendships along the way. Registration is now open for the full conference, SMPG Facilitator Training, and youth programs. For more information link to: [SENG Gifted 2017 Conference](#).

STUDENT/TEACHER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITES

We hope that you are able to attend our annual **NJAGC conference on March 17th**, and we will then begin planning for next year's event. All members are encouraged to get involved. At this point we especially need people to make phone calls in order to obtain conference sponsors, and also welcome any ideas that you have for speakers and topics to include. Please send an email to njagc@njagc.org to volunteer your time or ideas.

The New Jersey State Bar Foundation will sponsor **free** mock trial programs for students in grades 3 – 8 in May at the New Jersey Law Center in New Brunswick. The programs are open to public, private, and home schools; as well as Boy and Girl Scout troops or other organizations.

During the interactive programs, elementary and middle school **students who attend will serve as jurors**. They will hear cases written and performed by students who have won the Foundation's **2017 Law Fair and Law Adventure Competitions**. Judges and attorneys will preside over the trials.

Programs for grades 3 – 6 will be held May 22nd – 25th. Seventh and eighth-grade sessions will take place May 15th – 18th. Admission is free, but advance registration is required. To register for Law Fair, [click here](#). To register for Law Adventure, [click here](#).

For more information about the programs and competitions, please visit our website or contact Sheila Boro, director of mock trial programs at 732-937-7519 or email sboro@njsbf.org.

CONTESTS/COMPETITIONS

March 20, 2017 is the deadline for the annual *National Wildlife*[®] Photo Contest. This year's contest is comprised of seven different categories:

- Baby Animals:** Portraits and behavior of young animals of any species.
- Backyard Habitats:** Wild creatures, native plants and natural settings in backyards.
- Birds:** Portraits and behavior.
- Landscapes and Plants:** Scenic views and native plants in wild settings.
- Mammals:** Portraits and behavior.
- Other Wildlife:** Portraits and behavior (includes underwater life, reptiles, amphibians, insects, spiders and more).
- People in Nature:** People enjoying the outdoors or connecting with nature and wildlife.

Entry Fee: Enter up to ten photos for \$20.00. No limit to the total number of images.

Your fee helps support NWF's work to protect wildlife and wild places.

Grand Prize: \$5,000.00. Remember, **the deadline is March 20, 2017.**

Link to: [Wildlife Photo Contest](#) for more information.

14th annual PNC Bank “American Patriot Essay Contest”

The **QuickChek New Jersey Festival of Ballooning** and **PNC Bank** are once again inviting New Jersey students in grades 2 through 12 to take part in the 14th annual PNC Bank “**American Patriot Essay Contest**” by writing a short essay on the topic “**What the American Flag Means to Me.**”

The Grand Prize winner will receive a visit to his or her school by a gigantic, 75-foot-tall hot air balloon in June and a special VIP package at this year’s balloon festival in July: a hot air balloon ride for two, four Blue Sky Club VIP tickets, and the opportunity to meet one of this year’s concert headliners.

The essays must be **100 words or less**. They will be judged by a panel of representatives from PNC Bank and the balloon festival. Winning essays will be selected based on creativity, poignancy and clarity with consideration given to the grade level of the contestant. Contestants are not required to be U.S. citizens.

Entries should be mailed to:

-Essay Judges, QuickChek New Jersey Festival of Ballooning, 363 Route 46 West, Suite 200, Fairfield, NJ, 07004, or emailed to pncessay@balloonfestival.com.

-Entries should include the student’s name, home or school address, home or school telephone number, grade, age, school name and the name of their teacher.

The deadline to enter is May 1, 2017.

For more information link to: [Balloon Festival Flag Essay Contest](#).

Enter for the Chance to Win \$5k for Your School Garden! Brought to you by **Discovery Education** and the **Nutrients for Life Foundation**, the **Let it Grow Contest** calls on educators and community adults nationwide to enter and vote daily for a middle school* of their choice for a chance to win an agricultural grant, which could be used towards a school garden or gardening supplies, and more!

THE ARTS

George Street Playhouse in New Brunswick, NJ, is now offering **Acting Classes** for children and adults. Visit [GSP Acting Classes](#) for registration information. Classes include Improvisation, musical theatre and storytelling.

Stage Door Connections, a pre-eminent producer of **Broadway workshops** and special events, presents a collection of unique workshops designed to add a new dimension to your Broadway experience. Choose from their menu of “Performing and Non-Performing Workshops” or customize a workshop based on your students’ needs and interests. Workshops can be taken simply for fun, or as a way to explore employment opportunities in the entertainment industry. Visit: [Stage Door Connections](#)

High 5 Tickets to the Arts gives teens exclusive access to New York City’s thriving arts scene for just \$5! Through the generosity of over 300 arts organizations in NYC, High 5 offers \$5 tickets to events ranging from dance to music to theater and the visual arts — we’ve got a taste of everything for everyone!

Go to <https://teens.artsconnection.org/> for more information on tickets and other arts programs.

TEACHER'S CORNER

Established in 1986, the **Douglass Project for Rutgers Women in Math, Science & Engineering** is an award-winning program that provides support and encouragement for undergraduate women pursuing degrees and careers in mathematics, science, engineering, and technology. The program's ultimate goal is to increase the participation of Rutgers women in STEM. The Douglass Project provides women in the STEM-related fields with personal, professional, and leadership development opportunities and provides support systems that encourage women to recognize their abilities, attain their educational goals, and ultimately pursue careers in the STEM fields.

Rutgers University will be holding tours/information sessions on the **Douglass campus in New Brunswick at 1:30 p.m. on March 3rd, 24th, 31st and April 7th, 21st, and 28th**. Reservations are requested. Please contact discoverdouglass@Rutgers.edu or call [848-932-9500](tel:848-932-9500) for reservations and more information.

TEACHER/FAMILY OUTINGS

WWI 100th Anniversary Event at Camp Evans by InfoAge

When: Sunday, April 9, 2017 from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Where: InfoAge in the Marconi Hotel building, 2201 Marconi Road, Wall, NJ 07719

Admission: \$5 per person.

We invite all those interested in WW I to come learn the role that New Jersey played that led to ultimate victory in the "Great War." A series of presentations by technical experts are sure to enlighten the audience and stimulate conversation.

This site has also been redeveloped as a science museum. Go to <http://infoage.org/> for more information on visiting this unique museum.

The **Philadelphia Science Festival** is a nine-day, community-wide celebration of science that takes place annually in April. It features lectures, debates, hands-on activities, special exhibitions, and a variety of other informal science education experiences for all ages. Visit [Philadelphia Science Festival](#) for more information and schedule of events.

Save the date! June 13th, 17th, and 20th, is the annual **NYC Museum Mile Festival**. Go to [NYC Museum Mile Festival](#) to learn about special events and free/discounted admission to some of NY City's most iconic museums.

The Stages Festival is still going strong, featuring special events and free/discounted tickets at performing arts venues around the state. Go to [Theatre Alliance](#) for more information.

Spirit of the Jersey State History Fair is Saturday, May 13th at Monmouth Battlefield State Park, Manalapan, NJ from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. rain or shine. Visit [NJ History Fair](#) for more information

Visit the **Museum of Mathematics in NYC** for hands-on, interactive exhibits ...a museum devoted to the wonders of mathematics and its many connections, from art to science to finance. They have even developed a summer camp program! Check out [Museum of Mathematics](#) for more information.

Join **Vietnam Veteran Tour Guides** for FREE Saturday Tours of the Memorial beginning Saturday, March 4th through April 8th. Tours are offered as part of our scholarship program, and are open to the public. Memorial tour times are **11:00 a.m. and again at 1:00 p.m.** Guests are welcome to add a visit to the Museum and Educational Center for an even deeper educational experience.

Admission details, including times and fees, are below. All Memorial tours leave from the Museum lobby and last about an hour. Reservations are not required.

Link to: [NJ Vietnam Veteran Tour Guides](#) for more information.

Rutgers Geology Museum features hands on special events and walks. Check out their website at [Rutgers Geology](#) for more information.

Experience New Jersey's State University!

Rutgers University–New Brunswick

Saturday, April 29, 2017 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Free Admission

Come share in Rutgers pride by exploring the university's research, education, and service programs. Meet the diverse student body and faculty, and learn more about the health sciences programs that are now a part of the university. There's something for everyone, whether you are a current student, an alumna/us returning with your family, a prospective student, an athletic fan excited about the Big Ten, or a visitor curious about your state university, you'll find something to enjoy.

On April 1st, a complete listing of programs will be posted on this website: [Rutgers Day at the University](#). Each year they add new programming, so try a different campus if you are a repeat visitor.

Planning a trip to Florida? If you've ever wondered what it's like to be a mermaid...here is your chance to find out! **Weeki Wachee Springs State Park's Sirens of the Deep Mermaid Camp** offers two days of ballet lessons, swimming, lunches and snacks. For information, visit [Weeki Wachee Springs Park](#) to check out the cool costumes and equipment.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

The **James T. Webb Scholarship** currently extends the opportunity for identified gifted and talented students from minority populations and their parents to participate in the **SENG Annual Conference**. Students attend the program for children or teens. Parents attend concurrent adult sessions. - See more at: [SENG Conference James T Webb Scholarship](#)

March 17th is the deadline for a yearlong internship for teens at the **Jewish Museum in NYC**. Teens gain work experience by assisting professional educators in the Museum's art studio and galleries, while simultaneously exploring art and Jewish culture and developing their own creative interests. Students accepted into the program can fulfill community service hours or internship requirements at their school. Space is limited and students must commit to monthly training sessions.

For more information, please call [212.423.3254](tel:212.423.3254) or email teenprograms@theim.org.

RESOURCES TO CHECK OUT

Stossel in the Classroom would like to share some great educational opportunities with you and your students! All they need to do is go to [Stossel in the Classroom](#).

EARTH PRESERVERS is the most wide-ranging environmental news and education site on the Internet, combining a monthly newsletter with regularly-updated reports that find the green in everything – science; technology; fashion; design; music; art; law; crime; jobs; business; sports; celebrities; films & documentaries, and more.

Link to the website at: [Earth Preservers](#)

Science Near You is a site offered by **Liberty Science Center**, enabling you to locate science related programs and locations in your local area. Just enter your address at [SNU at LSC](#) to begin your search.

Go to [Elmers](#) to join **The Elmers Teacher Club**, offering resources and downloads in all subject areas. This site also offers project ideas for parents and students.

Check out [NASA - Gov](#) for NASA resources for the education community. There are continuous opportunities for webcasts, workshops, grants, etc.

Located on **Duke Farms** in central New Jersey, the **EagleCam** allows viewers an up close and personal view into the lives of a pair of bald eagles as they breed, incubate, and raise young. It is a perfect tool for teaching about wildlife and covers a variety of topics including animal behavior, bird biology and natural history, endangered species, food webs, contamination, and more. Visit [Live Eagle Cam](#) daily for updates.

SUMMER ACTIVITES / REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Somerset County YMCA will offer a two week camp focused on archaeology this July, including field trip explorations. For information link to: www.somersetcountyyymca.org/ or call 908-766-7898 ext.507 for more information.

International Connections Academy (iNaCA) has more than one hundred online summer courses available for students of all ages. And with rolling start dates, there is flexibility for scheduling around vacations, summer camps, and other adventures.

To get started, visit [International Connections Academy](#) or call an admissions counselor at 877-804-6222.

NJ Audubon conducts summer camps and programs throughout the state at the following sites. See the [map](#) for sanctuary locations.

[Lorrimer Sanctuary](#) (Franklin Lakes, Bergen County) 201-891-2185

[Scherman/Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuaries](#) (Bernardsville, Somerset County) 908-766-5787

[Plainsboro Preserve](#) (Plainsboro, Middlesex County) 609-897-9400

[Nature Center of Cape May](#) (Cape May, Cape May County) 609-898-8848

Stanford High School Summer College is where exceptional high school students take Stanford undergraduate courses and earn university credit.

Learn:

Choose from 145 different courses in over 30 departments taught by Stanford faculty and scholars.

Dive deep into a subject with a Stanford Summer Intensive Study Certificate.

Take advantage of academic advising and tutoring.

Connect:

Take courses with Stanford undergraduates and other visiting students from around the world.

Create:

Lifelong memories with new friends while you live on campus, attend as a commuter, or take one of our specifically selected courses online.

Program Dates: June 24 – August 20, 2017

Applications are now open with rolling admissions.

For more information link to: [Summer College - Stanford](#)

Please visit our sponsors below to view their weekend and summer class offerings for gifted children.

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"NJAGC Gold Sponsors"

Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth (CTY)

www.cty.jhu.edu

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Summer Institute for the Gifted (SIG)

www.giftedstudy.org

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