



TR Sanctuary

For the Birds students listen intently during one of many education sessions at the TRS camp.

For the Birds students flock north for summer program at TRS camp

By Jay Teyan

Hector wants to be a biologist. I've watched him down at the beach, digging around the spartina grass, collecting mollusks and fiddler crabs and I think he's pretty serious. At four feet tall, with oversized shorts and the latest in sneaker technology, Hector looks like any urban kid; more at home in the city than the marsh. And true, he gets pretty scared when he's alone in the woods, but then, he's only eleven years old.

How did Hector find his way from the concrete wilderness of the Bronx to the somewhat greener wilderness of Long Island? Credit the New York City Board of Education, who initiated Breakaway Camps — a chance for inner-city kids who have done well in school to relocate for the summer. This year, Chuck Remington, education director for the National Audubon Society of New York State (NASNY), worked to get a Breakaway contract from the Board of Education, which was awarded to the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary (TRS).

We were thrilled to bring 17 children from P.S. 159 in the Bronx to TRS's summer nature camp in Oyster Bay for five weeks. Many had never spent much time outside their neighborhoods. We knew in advance, however, that these were great kids and enthusiastic learners because they had

been studying birds during the school year with Kristen Stram, education coordinator for NASNY. Together with a teacher from P.S. 159, Yehonela Ortiz, we developed activities that combined science, reading, fun and games.

Like Hector, most of the campers grew up in Latino households, speaking Spanish first, English second. They grew up in households that place enormous importance on family. While environmental protection has not traditionally been part of their cultural landscape, there is a growing sentiment that basic subsistence depends on long-term sustainability. This is true of many developing nations worldwide.

At TRS, we have been working to engage urban students in the environmental debate; to provide the formative experiences that lead to environmental activism later in life. Hector and his classmates will, one day, make the decisions about whether or not to protect Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge or Pelham Bay Park or Planting Fields Arboretum. I'm confident that Hector will reflect back on his experiences of this past summer and make good choices. I'm hoping that all the children who participate in our programs will do likewise.

Director hired for Prospect Park Audubon Center

Staff Report

Cheryl Bartholow is the new director of the Prospect Park Boathouse. She will officially start in her new capacity on Dec. 4. Bartholow comes most recently from the Brooklyn Children's Museum, the world's first children's museum. She started at the museum in 1993 as the director of education and in 1996 was promoted to vice president of programs.



Cheryl Bartholow

Prior to the museum, she worked at the Museum of the City of New York and as a freelance design consultant for education programs. She started her career by founding a touring puppet theater in Minneapolis.

Bartholow holds a degree in theater arts from the University of Minnesota. She has a very strong background in exhibit design and implementation, as well as educational programming. She has published a number of articles and programs and has been on numerous advisory boards and panels.

Bartholow will oversee all aspects of preparing the center for its fall 2001 opening, including the design and fabrication of the exhibits, the piloting of educational programs with local school districts and building relationships with local community based organizations.

Creating a culture of conservation is no small task.

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