# Learn More About Forests

*An Eagle Eye Institute Youth Program*

The Learn More About Forests program is a three-day, two-night camping experience designed to deepen youth understanding and appreciation of nature. It is an opportunity for youth and young adults between the ages of 8 and 24 to be immersed in nature, learn about the forest, gain leadership skills, strengthen their team and community, and have a memorable and fun experience at our private 200-acre forest site in the Berkshires.

The program incorporates a one mile walk-in on a private road, games and team-building activities, hands-on science learning with natural resource professionals, hiking on trails built and maintained by youth groups, stewardship projects to give back to the land, tent camping, preparing meals outdoors, and relaxing around the campfire.

*"I learned that camping is very rewarding and because of that I found inner peace and tranquility."*
Holyoke Charter School Senior

Participants follow a well-structured and intentional sequence of activities that includes elements of hands-on, experiential learning, exploration and discovery, stewardship, teamwork, play and reflection. Youth learn about forest ecology, water, soil, and the value of trees in the environment; the connections between forest, water, agriculture and the city; and their role in protecting our natural resources.

**LMAF Program Goals:**

- Create an opening to the natural world.
- Create an opening to people and communities.
- Create an opening to one's self and the role one plays in caring for our environment.

As a result of participating in a LMAF program with Eagle Eye, participants will:

- Increase their comfort being outdoors, by spending time immersed in nature and away from everyday technology.
- Acquire basic camping skills (pitching a tent, building a fire, cooking outdoors).
- Learn about the forest through hands-on activities led by natural resource professionals.
- Gain land management skills and experience using hand tools.
- Learn healthy living habits and how to live sustainably by using fewer resources.
- Better understand their role as stewards of our environment.
- Become aware of career options in the natural resource field.

**Group size:** 12-15, including two staff from the youth organization.

**Cost share:** $100 per person for a three-day, two-night experience. Meals, snacks and camping gear included.

*"From this experience I take away the need to spread the word about Eagle Eye and the value this experience can have on your students and staff."*
Holyoke Charter School Principal

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