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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 31, 2008

STUDENTS “SURVIVE” MEADOWLANDS EXPERIENCE *Meadowlands Environment Center summer camp teaches survival skills*

Lyndhurst, NJ – More than three dozen young “survivors” from Garfield, New Jersey, will graduate this week from the Meadowlands Environment Center’s survival camp with new skills to help them negotiate both daily life and unfamiliar territory.

The 40 campers spent the week learning survival skills that will benefit them at home, at school, in a marsh or on the water during *RAMS (Ramapo and Meadowlands Survival) Camp 2008*. The popular program, in its third year, is one of a half-dozen summer camps offered by the Meadowlands Environment Center, a partnership between the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission and Ramapo College.

“This camp is a fun opportunity for kids in the area to learn some important -- and maybe life-saving -- skills while enjoying themselves in the process,” said Bob Ceberio, the NJMC’s Executive Director. “It’s also a chance for these children to experience what the Meadowlands region has to offer.”

Participants in this year’s camp, which was free to children ages 9 to 13, included 20 children from the Garfield YMCA Camp and another 20 from the Garfield Recreation Camp. The groups visited the MEC’s headquarters in Richard W. DeKorte Park on alternate days to learn about edible and medicinal plants, participate in yoga classes and learn canoe safety. Campers conducted a food-science lab and rated their lunch for fats, proteins and other nutritional components. The children also competed in a triathlon that included a canoe race, botany contest and a fishing challenge.

All MEC summer camps are held in the Meadowlands Commission’s new Center for Environmental and Scientific Education, which incorporates green-building techniques, and are led by educators from Ramapo College. Other programs this summer focus on space exploration, marsh habitats and water quality. While most programs are full, there are still spots available in the Spanish-language version of *Hopping Through Habitats*, which will start Aug. 4. For information on camp participation, call Jenny Mejia at (201) 460-8300.

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