

# August

## at the Environmental Education Center

### Let's Play a Game!

Looking for fun and adventure in your own backyard? There's still time to sign up for The County Caper and The County Caper Accelerated! These fun interactive tours of Somerset County parks and facilities kick off on Saturday August 21. Based loosely on the popular television show "The Amazing Race", the family version is a two day event that will end on Sunday, August 22. Teams will travel to specific parks and find clues or perform fun tasks. Prizes will be awarded in various categories. The grand prize will be a paddling instruction session and a New Jersey paddling trip with a Naturalist for the entire winning team. New this year is an adult version called "The County Caper Accelerated!". This game is open to anyone age 15 and up. It is a timed event that occurs only on Saturday, August 21. Teams will race against the clock while performing crazy tasks and finding hidden clues. The grand prize for the best time will be a paddling instruction session and paddling trip on a New Jersey river. Call 908-766-2489 to register for this free event.

### Make a Hummingbird

You will need two Large Pom-poms, glue, two wiggly eyes, one toothpick, one muffin cup, scissors, and a black marker.

1. Color the tooth pick black with the marker and cut it in half.
2. Glue one pom-pom on top of the other.
3. Glue on eyes and tooth pick.
4. Cut the muffin cup into four equal pieces. Glue on two pieces of the cup for the wings and one for the tail.

For more information on events, please visit our website at

[www.somersetcountyparks.org](http://www.somersetcountyparks.org)!

Environmental Education Center  
190 Lord Stirling Rd. Basking Ridge, NJ  
(908)766-2489

### Hummers and Trumpets

This is a great time of year to spot the Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) as they move at top speed from flower to flower sipping nutrient-rich nectar. A flash of green and red, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird is eastern North America's sole breeding hummingbird. These brilliant, tiny, precision-flying creatures glitter like jewels in the full sun, then vanish with a zip toward the next nectar source. One of their favorite sources of nectar is the native Trumpet Vine. These easy-to-grow vines produce beautiful showy red trumpet-shaped flowers and are a great way to attract these birds. The hummers' natural curiosity will also bring them to artificial feeders that are placed around a home. These feeders mimic the Trumpet Vine. Some people turn their yards into buzzing clouds of hummingbirds each summer. Enjoy them while they're around; by early fall they're bound for Central America, with many crossing the Gulf of Mexico in a single flight.



If you have individualized needs due to a disability, please call 908 526-5650 and we will be happy to arrange reasonable accommodations. Two weeks notice is required to ensure that appropriate accommodations can be provided.