

NEWS RELEASE

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Adkins Arboretum Awarded Grant from PNC Foundation for Nature Preschool Programs

Adkins Arboretum has been awarded a \$2,500 grant from the PNC Foundation to make nature-based education more accessible to local children through its Acorn Academy Nature Preschool program.

“The opportunity to welcome more Caroline County children to the Arboretum’s nature preschool is so exciting,” said Adkins Youth Program Coordinator Jenny Houghton. “Preschool is the perfect age to encourage imaginative outdoor play, and thanks to PNC, we’ll be able to provide our littlest explorers with hands-on nature fun and give back to the community at the same time.”

The grant from the PNC Foundation, which receives its principal funding from The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. (NYSE: PNC), will allow the Arboretum to offer nature preschool programs at no cost to residents of Caroline County in 2016. These popular programs for children ages 3 to 5 engage children with nature and serve as an introduction to the outdoors, wildlife, and principles of conservation.

Environmental education has been linked to improved academic achievement and encourages stewardship, pride and ownership. Adkins Arboretum’s Acorn Academy Nature Preschool puts students on the path toward cultivating a meaningful awareness of the human-environmental connection and instills basic tenets of critical thinking and investigation skills.

The six-week winter preschool series begins Tues., Feb. 2. The spring session begins Tues., April 5. Registration for both sessions is underway and may be completed at adkinsarboretum.org or by calling 410-634-2847, ext. 0.

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Adkins Arboretum is a 400-acre native garden and preserve at the headwaters of the Tuckahoe Creek in Caroline County. Open year round, the Arboretum offers educational programs for all ages about nature, conservation and gardening. For more information about programs, visit adkinsarboretum.org or call 410-634-2847, ext. 0.

The PNC Foundation actively supports organizations that provide services for the benefit of communities in which it has a significant presence. The foundation focuses its philanthropic mission on early childhood education and community and economic development, which includes arts and culture.

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