



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 12, 2011**

**Contact: Bruce Netherwood, Executive Director**  
**Camps and Outdoor Education**  
**508-428-2571**

## **South Shore YMCA and South Shore Natural Science Center Merge**

On Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, the South Shore YMCA and the South Shore Natural Science Center announced a merger of their organizations. The merger is driven by their mutual commitment to more fully connect children and families to the natural environment and to ensure that natural science and environmental education remain part of the fabric of the South Shore for the foreseeable future.

Located in Norwell, The South Shore Natural Science Center was founded 50 years ago with a mission to educate, excite and commit individuals to preserve and enjoy the natural environment. This mission is instilled throughout the Science Center's educational programming, summer day camps and pre-school. Martha Twigg, Executive Director of the Natural Science Center stated, "We are very excited to merge with the YMCA because it will secure our mission and our ability to broaden and reach more generations to instill the importance of preserving and protecting our natural environment."

Founded in 1892 in Quincy, The South Shore YMCA has facilities in Quincy and Hanover which combined serve over 30,000 members. They also operate the Germantown Neighborhood Center which provides after school programs, summer day camps, women's and GED programs, and a food pantry which serves 1,400 families monthly. In 1928 the YMCA made a commitment to residence camping and outdoor education on Cape Cod with the establishment of Camp Burgess for boys and subsequently Camp Hayward for girls and year-round outdoor education and conference facilities and programs.

YMCA CEO Paul Gorman states. "This merger is a great example of our commitment to sustainable communities. We believe that protection of our environment is an essential ingredient of social responsibility which is one of the YMCA's areas of focus. There is nothing more fundamental for building healthy communities than teaching our children to be responsible stewards of our environment."

Current and new members of both organizations will receive reciprocal membership benefits. In addition, through the YMCA's Annual Support Campaign, financial assistance will be made available for membership and program scholarships for both organizations.

For more information regarding the South Shore YMCA and South Shore Natural Science Center merger, please contact: Bruce Netherwood, Executive Director, Camps and Outdoor Education at 508-428-2571, ext. 103.

###