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Camps Across New England Make Green Changes in Summer Challenge

Concord, Massachusetts -- July 8, 2009 -- Campers and staff at camps throughout New England are helping to make their communities greener, more environmentally friendly places. On July 8, 2009, from 9 a.m. to noon, dozens of campers are participating in the Three Hours to Change Summer Challenge. The goals of the challenge are three-fold:

- (1) Raise awareness of environmental issues in each individual community and camper families at large
- (2) Reduce the impact on the environment of the camping industry by 15,000 tons of Carbon
- (3) To reinforce the camping industry's traditional role in environmentalism: developing awareness among young people and providing respite from technology (unplugging)

Three Hours to Change is a group of camp professionals dedicated to helping camps jump-start a shift toward greener operations, and to involve campers and staff in bringing about green changes. Founded by a small group of full and part time administrative staff from a handful of New England camps Three Hours to Change has been advocating for green changes in the camping industry through professional development, consulting, and programming alternatives.

Garrett Colgan-Snyder, Owner & Director of Camp Hawkeye in Moultonborough, New Hampshire, and co-founder of Three Hours to Change said: "Both our leadership and frontline staff are excited to participate in the challenge. As a rustic traditional style camp our community is already committed to preserving and improving our natural environment but there are always gains to be made on the programming and outreach side."

Camps in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Maine are planning myriad activities from usage surveys for older campers, to recycling games for the youngest community members, and planting gardens for the whole camp. Camps are seeking to reduce energy use, fuel consumption, and, food and other waste, while at the same time increasing green programming, utilization of sustainable natural resources, and low-impact activities.

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