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NJSEA Provides Environmental Experience Programs to Meadowlands Seniors Organizations

The New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority and the Meadowlands Environment Center are providing engaging and interactive programs to Meadowlands District seniors at no charge. The Informal Science Environmental Experiences, project ISEE, will bring a greater understanding of the region's history and its environment, ecology and wildlife.

Activities are funded by a Wallerstein Foundation Grant for Older Adult Learning to Ramapo College of NJ. The programs are held at senior centers or in the Meadowlands Environment Center in Richard W. DeKorte Park in Lyndhurst. Topics include an introduction to the plants and animals that live in the Meadowlands' marshes, "Wings Across the World," in which participants learn how birds migrate across the globe and take a short hike around DeKorte Park. Older adults can also learn about medicinal plants and prepare herbal tea bags to take home, learn more about fish and make Japanese fish prints, and increase understanding of Reduce, Re-Use and Recycle and create a "Garden in a Bottle" out of a recycled plastic water bottle.

"The NJSEA is pleased to deliver high-quality, interpersonal education programs to local seniors," said Jill Hirsch, President and CEO of the NJSEA. "By focusing on the Meadowlands' environmental transformation while incorporating hands-on activities, the workshops are both relevant and memorable."

Dr. Angela Cristini, Professor Emeritus of Biology at Ramapo College and former Director of the Meadowlands Environment Center, leads project ISEE. Over the course of 45 years, Dr. Cristini has earned a national reputation as an expert in STEM education for students, educators, families and older adults. She has been invited by the National Science Foundation to present her work and by the National Academies of Sciences to serve on the Committee on Informal STEM Learning.

If your Meadowlands District seniors organization is interested in participating, please contact Dr. Cristini at acristin@ramapo.edu.

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