

*The following project proposal was created by a community partner of the Upstate Institute to describe the way they would like to engage with a Colgate student this summer. The research project proposed will be a full-time research project conducted by a Field School Fellow this summer. Below, the partner describes their organization and the research project, as well as a statement of benefit derived by the community for this project. The proposal also mentions logistical considerations and required skills for a student interested in doing this work.*

*\* Please note that we anticipate partnering this project with that of the Kinne Center, also described on our website.*

### **Friends of Rogers Environmental Education Center, Inc.**

Rogers Environmental Education Center  
2721 State HWY. 80, PO Box 932  
Sherburne, NY 13460  
[www.friendsofrogers.org](http://www.friendsofrogers.org)

#### **OUR MISSION**

*To provide Central New Yorkers with outstanding educational opportunities that excite, inspire, and motivate people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities to enjoy, understand, appreciate, and protect our natural environment.*

#### **OUR VISION**

*The Rogers Environmental Education Center is a great source of community pride and a regular destination for the people of Central New York who seek to experience and learn about our natural environment. We are a vital educational resource for schools and families and a welcoming and accessible environment for people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. Our events and activities form the core of a community-wide respect for and understanding of the natural environment of Central New York.*

#### **Project Description**

What is the optimal way we can preserve the physical and digital photographs and images associated with Rogers Environmental Education Center? How can we best organize these image files so they are easily accessible (and searchable) by all stakeholders of Friends of Rogers? How can we improve the sharing of these materials and still protect them from every day wear-and-tear?

As a small grass-roots non-profit, many of our documents and photographs are in a variety of locations, both physically and electronically. We have also had damage to some of our historical newspaper clippings. Having celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary over the last year, it has become apparent that we really need an improved system for cataloging and accessing both our physical and electronic materials. We frequently need to share electronic images, but they are currently stored in the numerous places. We also do not have a logical system developed to search these images for key words when seeking out various topics.

It is important that we create a better system for keeping and retrieving our physical and electronic images. As we develop our natural history collection and create more high-quality museum exhibits, it is essential for us to improve upon our collection management techniques. It would be extremely beneficial to have both digital and physical archives created in order to properly preserve, as well as access, our visual materials. Having an “archivist” collect, organize, and correctly store materials will allow us to more easily access and share what we currently have. It will also ensure that we have the knowledge and ability to preserve important historical pieces.

## **Statement**

The proposed research relates directly to the Upstate region. As a source of community pride and a regional eco-tourist destination, Rogers Environmental Education Center is a vital resource for schools and families, and a welcoming and accessible environment for people of all ages, socio-economic backgrounds, race, religion, gender, and abilities. We serve visitors from Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Herkimer, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, and Otsego counties. In 2017, nearly 15,000 guests passed through our Visitor Center – not including those who hike our trails on a regular basis! Field Trips reach children in nearly thirty communities, including Afton, Bethlehem, Brookfield, Cazenovia, Chittenango, Cincinnatus, Cooperstown, Earlville, Fayetteville, Gilbertsville, Greene, Hamilton, Marathon, Manlius, Morrisville, Mt. Markham, Mt. Upton, Norwich, Oneonta, Oxford, Poland, Sherburne, Sherrill, Sidney, Stockbridge Valley, Utica, Vernon, & Verona. Early childhood initiatives bring hundreds of pre-schoolers and caregivers to Rogers Center every week. Our free annual community festivals are seeing record attendance. Day camp programs during school vacations host hundreds of children for hands-on environmental education and socialization. Our programs form the core of a community-wide respect for and understanding of the natural environment of Central New York. Augmented by over 100 volunteers who provide a variety of services, approximately 40% of our initiatives are free of charge. To achieve our mission, we rely on the generosity of private businesses, foundations, and individuals to sustain operations at Rogers Center. As a grassroots non-profit,

similar in many ways to other Upstate organizations, Friends of Rogers needs systems in place of managing essential documents and images. By having this project undertaken by a Field School Fellow, Friends of Rogers will have a more reliable source of images for which to conduct business, specifically regarding exhibit development and marketing. Our organization will be able to utilize the results of this project to significantly build capacity and advance our mission.

### **Logistical considerations**

We envision having a student work part-time on this project primarily at Rogers Center in Sherburne, NY. (It is recommended that the Field School Fellow plan to use either a Colgate-issued laptop or their own personal device, given the limited technology resources available with our organization. Unlimited free Wi-Fi usage would be provided.) External resources that would be helpful for this project include organizations such as the Association of Nature Center Administrators (ANCA), the Museum Association of New York, the Sherburne Historical Park Society and Museum, and the Chenango County Historical Society. While we prefer to utilize management software we already own, we understand that best-practices may suggest that we consider other options as well. The Field School Fellow will be jointly supervised by our Senior Educator and our Development staff member.

### **Training & Skills**

The Field School Fellow should possess: above-average organizational skills, an interest in non-profits and/or museums, and solid oral and written communication skills. The ability to juggle multiple tasks and operate standard office equipment (scanner, photocopier, etc.) is necessary. The Field School Fellow should be detail-oriented as well as skilled in a variety of computer applications (i.e. Microsoft Office, Google, etc.). The Field School Fellow will gain archival and curatorial experience, as well as individualized, routine coaching, and guidance. Beyond the transferrable applied learning skills that the Field School Fellow will develop, a highly-organized and motivated individual has the opportunity to leave a lasting impact on a beloved Upstate community landmark.

Along with this proposal are electronic snapshots of our 2018 Newsletter Supplement which highlights the work that Friends of Rogers does in the community.

# Membership Confirmation

I'd like to join/renew my Friends of Rogers membership through Team Green. Please accept my monthly recurring gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_

OR

Please accept my one-time gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to cover annual membership dues.

## SELECT MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

- Pine**  
Annual support of \$500 or more\*
- Oak**  
Annual support of \$250-499\*
- Maple**  
Annual support of \$100-249\*
- Beech**  
Annual support of \$50-99\*
- Aspen**  
Annual support of \$35-49\*

\*Senior Membership Rate -- all persons 65 or over may deduct 25% from a membership level of support

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Email (necessary for monthly e-newsletter subscription) \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Donation \$\_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Friends of Rogers, Inc.  
 PO Box 932  
 Sherburne, NY 13460

Method of payment:  
 Check made payable to Friends of Rogers, Inc.  Cash  Credit Card

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration \_\_\_\_\_ CSC \_\_\_\_\_  
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## 2018 Calendar Highlights

**Storytime & Hike**  
 Every Wednesday • 10:30 am

Sponsored by **Chobani**

**Chillin' Out**  
 Jan. 15 • 9 am • Adventure Camp  
 Sponsored by **COLGATE**

**Winter Living Celebration**  
 Jan. 20 • 11 am • 40th Annual

**Winter Adventures** Sponsored by  
 Feb. 19-21 • 9 am  
 Adventure Camp  
**CVT** Chenango Valley Technologies

**Spring Frolic**  
 March 22 • 6 pm • 7th Annual  
 Sponsored by **Community Bank N.A.**

= pre-registration required

**Family Fun**  
 Third Saturday Each Month • 10:30

Sponsored by **M&T Bank**  
 Understanding what's important<sup>SM</sup>

**Earth Fest**  
 May 6 • Noon • Annual

**Family Fishing Day**  
 June 16 • 10 am • 5th Annual

Sponsored by **Community Bank N.A.**

**Wild Goose Chase**  
 Sept. 15 • 3rd Annual 5K Trail Run/Walk

Sponsored by **NBT BANK**

**Animals of Halloween**  
 Oct. 20 • 5:30 pm • Annual

Visit [www.FriendsofRogers.org](http://www.FriendsofRogers.org) for up-to-date program listings!



### DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

## Our Members Make Us Golden!

Thanks to support from *Friends of Rogers* like you, Rogers Environmental Education Center will celebrate a 'Golden Anniversary' this year! Seven years ago, New York State budget reductions eliminated all environmental education programs at Rogers Center. Since that time, generous friends such as yourself have financed Rogers Center activities. Support from *Friends of Rogers* is allowing a beloved community resource to be preserved, and to flourish. This newsletter supplement includes our 2017 impact report with noteworthy achievements – all made possible thanks to our dedicated members! *Friends of Rogers* members are connecting community with nature in a beloved, educational setting. We provide outstanding opportunities that excite, inspire, and motivate people of all ages to enjoy, understand, appreciate, and protect our natural environment.

In honor of Rogers Center's 50th Birthday, those who join with a minimum \$50.00



contribution (Beech Level) have the option to receive a commemorative sun catcher pictured here. Please join *Friends of Rogers* with a new or renewed membership today! Your membership ensures that every visitor continues to enjoy all that Rogers Center has to offer. Thank you for making the 50th 'Golden Anniversary' of Rogers Environmental Education Center possible!

See you on the trails,

Simon M. Solomon  
 Executive Director  
 Friends of Rogers



2018 Newsletter Supplement

# ROGERS CENTER

[ EXCITE | INSPIRE | MOTIVATE ]

## Membership

### Friends of Rogers Environmental Education Center, Inc.

#### Board of Directors

- President: Adam Schoonmaker, Ph.D.
- Vice President: Sharon Pelosi
- Secretary: Daniel Auwarter
- Treasurer: T.J. Moorehead
- Emeritus: Thurston Packer
- D. Lukas Brown
- Dianne Daugherty
- Eric Diefenbacher
- Kevin Doonan
- Marsha Guzewich
- Constance Hasko
- Paul Lepore
- John Pumilio
- Chris Rossi
- Carol Smith
- Owen Tallman
- Fred von Mechow

#### Staff

- Simon Solomon  
 Executive Director
- Jessica Moquin  
 Development
- Sarah Freedman  
 Environmental Educator
- Jenni Larchar  
 Children's Program Coordinator

Friends of Rogers, Inc.  
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 (607) 674-4733

[www.FriendsofRogers.org](http://www.FriendsofRogers.org)  
[info@FriendsofRogers.org](mailto:info@FriendsofRogers.org)

# A history of ROGERS

**2017** Friends of Rogers welcomes record-setting 14,922nd annual visitor.

**2015** Jenni Larchar becomes Children's Coordinator (March).

**2014** Development professional Jessica Moquin joins staff (Dec.).

**2013** Simon Solomon appointed first Executive Director (Feb.) & Sarah Freedman becomes Environmental Educator (Oct.).

**2012** First Summer Adventures programs.

**2011** Friends of Rogers begins running Rogers Center (spring) through an agreement with DEC. Visitor Center resumes regular hours of operation and programming (fall).

**2010** State fiscal crisis forces DEC to close Rogers Environmental Education Center.

**2005** The Stone House (living quarters for education staff) is refurbished.

**1994** Mid-York Conservation Fund renamed Friends of Rogers.

**1970** New York State Conservation Department becomes NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Rogers Conservation Education Center renamed Rogers Environmental Education Center.

**1969** Mid-York Conservation Fund purchases George Lesser mounted bird collection. A pro-active group of community members came together to assist Rogers Conservation Education Center with programs and community relations.

**1968** First New York Interpretive Center opens. Known as Rogers Conservation Education Center.

**1967** Boice Pond property added.

**1966** NYS Conservation Department follows through on National Audubon Society recommendation to establish nature center; John Weeks named first director.



**1963** New York State Conservation Department decides to phase out Rogers State Game farm. Sherburne Rotary Club, led by President John Borst, funds a feasibility study conducted by the National Audubon Society.

**1948** Facility renamed Rogers State Game farm to recognize Harry and Gertrude Rogers.

**1947** Cush Hill property (including The Stone House) purchased.

**1933** Adams Farm property added. Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp hosted on Adams Farm property. CCC plants pine and spruce trees, and oversees construction of flood barriers, ponds, roads, and trails.

**1932** Harry Rogers appointed Superintendent for all NY Game Farms, with Gertrude named Sherburne Game Farm Manager. Over 280,000 pheasants and other birds raised each year.

**1929** Lathrop property acquisition.

**1909** Sherburne Pheasant farm established as first game farm in New York on the site of the former William Lyman farm. (It later becomes the longest continuously operating game farm in the U.S.)

New York State Conservation Department hires Harry & Gertrude Rogers to run the farm.

**1837** Chenango Canal completed.

**1835** The Stone House (living quarters for Rogers education staff) built by Henry Gardiner and his son.

**1793** First permanent European settlers in Sherburne turn forests into farmland.

**1788** Land purchased by pioneers from Native Americans.








The best way to join or renew your Friends of Rogers membership is through our monthly giving club, Team Green. Monthly gifts form a source of income we can count on to fulfill our ongoing need for support.

Monthly Gift Of:	This Would:	Member Benefits:
\$48	Underwrite a full day of programming	Pine
\$24	Support a half-day field trip	Oak
\$12	Subsidize one week of camp	Maple
\$6	Provide one Storytime & Hike	Beech
\$3	Cover 30 minutes of learning activities	Aspen

## BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

Your Friends of Rogers membership ensures the continuation of programming at Rogers Environmental Education Center and assists Friends of Rogers in maintaining high standards of environmental education that have been established over the years. Membership contributions help fund community celebrations, educational exhibits, guest presenters, instructional materials, Visitor Center operations, and much more. In addition to the privileges listed, the greatest benefit derived from membership in Friends of Rogers is the satisfaction of supporting Rogers Environmental Education Center!

Membership includes benefits for two adults at the same address. Benefits are extended to all persons 18 or under who reside with adult members; valid for 12 months from date of enrollment; and tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

	<b>Pine</b> • Exclusive naming rights for one full day of Visitor Center operations • Plus all benefits listed below	<b>\$500</b>
	<b>Oak</b> • Private, guided trail outing for up to five people, led by Friends of Rogers education staff • Unlimited, complimentary cross-country ski and snowshoe sessions • Plus all benefits listed below	<b>\$250</b>
	<b>Maple</b> • Four complimentary snow-shoe sessions • Plus all benefits listed below	<b>\$100</b>
	<b>Beech</b> • Commemorative Friends of Rogers sun catcher • Four complimentary cross-country ski sessions • Plus all benefits listed below	<b>\$50</b>
	<b>Aspen</b> • 10% discount on gift shop/bookstore pre-tax purchases over \$10 • Monthly e-newsletter subscription • Reciprocal membership benefits to centers in the Association of Nature Center Administrators (ANCA) network • Special rates for fee-based programs and Adventure Camps • Voting rights at the Friends of Rogers annual business meeting	<b>\$35</b>

Senior Membership Rate – all persons 65 or over may deduct 25% from a membership level of support

## 2017 Impact Report

### By the Numbers



### Financial Overview

#### Direct Support by Source



#### Dollars Spent by Category

