Children Are One With Nature And Technology

(NAPSA)—Children love the outdoors and animals. They also adapt to new technologies very quickly. So, is there any doubt that the environment-digital technology combination is a natural?

For over 25 years, Warriors' Path State Park (423-239-8531) in Kingsport, Tennessee, has provided high quality nature learning and environmental discovery activities for school-age children. Booked by teachers over a year in advance, the programs recently made a technology leap with a multimedia Canon projector that replaced an antiquated and cantankerous slide carousel.

"Each year over 30,000 children enjoy the hands-on learning activities that we share both at our park and at their schools," said ranger-naturalist Marty Silver. "We see the joy of nature discovery on the faces of the children and we read their growing concern for conservation in the letters that they send to us."

Throughout the Keystone State, children (adults, too) learn about the environment at the Pennsylvania Institute for Conservation Education (507-458-5227). The organization is dedicated to advancing awareness, knowledge and skills in natural history and conservation of natural resources by building an ecologically literate and engaged public through seminars, teacher workshops, internships and summer youth camps.

"We encourage hands-on discovery of ecosystems and natural landscapes through various outdoor activities while instilling stewardship of our natural resources," said CEO/executive director Michele Richards.



Photo: American Museum of Natural History
Digital technology is advancing
science and conservation.

The most popular and successful programs involve nature photography, and students of all ages now benefit from the latest imaging advances found in Canon Power-Shot and EOS digital cameras that were donated to the organization.

Even in the big city, at the American Museum of Natural History (www.amnh.org) in New York, digital technology has been introduced to assist with conservation assessments and enrich exhibitions.

Canon's digital radiography imaging systems found in hospitals, clinics and increasingly popular in veterinary medicine, supported the assessment for conservation of the almost 70-year-old elephant exhibit.

Network video cameras, designed to meet the most challenging needs, also have been placed in the museum to provide the public with close-up views of exhibits. The initial installation of cameras for Frogs: A Chorus of Colors, an exhibition that features more than 200 live frogs representing 24 species from around the world, enabled visitors to remotely operate cameras from nearby computers and zoom in for a better look at these engaging, highly colorful amphibians.