

ESSEX STEAM TRAIN & RIVERBOAT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kids Ride Free June 12th!

June 1, 2010, Essex, CT - - On **Connecticut Open House Day, Saturday, June 12th**, Essex Steam Train & Riverboat will extend its annual special offer to Connecticut residents – **Kids Ride Free All Day!**

Now in its 6th year, Connecticut Open House Day is a statewide celebration designed to raise awareness among Connecticut residents of all that this wonderful state has to offer - - rich history, world-class art, family activities and opportunities for rest and relaxation. Ideally, citizens will discover Connecticut treasures and share their findings with visiting friends and family.

Robert Bell, President of the Valley Railroad Company says, “Essex Steam Train & Riverboat has been a proud supporter of Connecticut Open House Day since the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism launched this event in 2005. We certainly hope our **Kids Ride Free** offer encourages families to come and enjoy a train and boat ride and the unique access it provides to this beautiful Connecticut River Valley that’s in our own backyard.”

History, scenery, wildlife and nature await the entire family!

Essex Steam Train & Riverboat’s historical significance continues to grow in importance as the number of steam locomotives decline. At the height of the steam locomotive era, there were roughly 1,800 steam engines in operation. Today, the Valley Railroad Company proudly maintains and operates 2 of the less than 100 operable steam locomotives in the country. And while steam trains and riverboats were once common forms of transportation, Valley Railroad now operates the *only* steam train and riverboat connection in the United States!

Plus, this narrated train and boat journey offers one of the best ways to explore the Connecticut River Valley’s scenery and wildlife. Or, perhaps your family prefers the Gillette Castle Hiking connection -- take the train ride to Chester Ferry and hike up to the castle. Either way, you’ll be immersed in nature and share the natural wonders that we so often don’t take time to enjoy. Make the most of it . . . bring binoculars, a camera and a picnic basket!

Children ages 11 and under qualify for this “Kids Ride Free” offer and must be accompanied by an adult passenger with a valid Connecticut Driver’s License. Seating is available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

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Kids Ride Free (cont.)

For more details on **Connecticut Open House Day**, go to **CTvisit.com**. For **Essex Steam Train & Riverboat** information, call **1-800-377-3987** or visit www.essexsteamtrain.com.

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