



NORTH BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

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Kerry Kirk Pflugh, President
Friends of NJSOC
PO Box 358
Brick, NJ 08723

info@friendsofnjsoc.org

Dear Ms. Pflugh:

Please accept this letter in support of a new partnership focusing on operating and ensuring the success of the New Jersey School of Conservation to restore educational programs for our school community.

North Brunswick Township School District has participated in sending our 5th and 6th graders to Stokes, starting in the early 1970s. Our first class trip, in 1971, was a day trip with the expectation of sending our following year's class on an overnight trip. Stokes State Forest is approximately a 2 hour drive from our district. These early trips were such a successful educational experience, that the district continued to participate in annual three day/two night trips to the School of Conservation. The last of the annual elementary school 5th grade trips to Stokes occurred in the 19-20 school year. Even in the pandemic, one group of teachers created a virtual field trip to Stokes to allow their students to share this experience. These trips are fondly discussed with community members, staff and students.

The opportunities for our students to participate in team building and hands-on environmental activities at the School of Conservation were unparalleled. For many of our students, these experiences were the only time they had the opportunity to experience and explore nature. The value is immeasurable.

Therefore, I personally, and on behalf of the North Brunswick Township Board of Education, fully support the application of the Friends of NJSOC to win the management contract for the School of Conservation.

Sincerely,

Janet Ciarrocca
Acting Superintendent

JC/lc