



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contacts:

[Jeff Croushore, Idlewild & SoakZone](mailto:Jeff@idlewild.com)
Jeff@idlewild.com; 724.238.3666 ext.2302

[Stephen Wayhart, BrandMill](mailto:Stephen.Wayhart@brandmill.com)
stephen.wayhart@brandmill.com; 412.401.0555

Idlewild & SoakZone to Hold Fun Outdoor Classroom Days for Students

LIGONIER, PA - May 8, 2006 – For two days, May 25 and May 26, Idlewild & SoakZone (www.idlewild.com) will hold an Outdoor Classroom program for hundreds of area elementary and junior high students to learn how Math, English, Science, and History relate to the real world.

This fun self-guided study program involves math equations related to Idlewild's famous rides and games; communication skills are honed as students write about the wonderful sights, exciting sounds, and their feelings and emotions as they experience them; and science and nature are taught first hand in the woody park setting. This two-day event offers students a unique combination of hands-on exercises, and it is a fun and a terrific way to generate enthusiasm for learning by connecting school subjects to real world applications. Some examples are:

- *"It's Alive"* features a beautiful nature walk focusing on trees indigenous to western Pennsylvania. Students will see Idlewild in a new light, as a lovely, thriving living laboratory for scientific study.
- *"Civil War Living History"* lets students experience life as a Civil War Soldier at an authentic encampment of Union and Confederate re-enactors. Students can see a mock skirmish, drill with soldiers, and participate in question and answer sessions to understand what the Civil War was really like. For all grades.
- *"Write Here, Write Now"* helps students apply language arts skills in a setting that will motivate them as young readers and writers, develop dictionary and thesaurus skills and strengthen proofreading and peer-editing practices. For Grades 6, 7 and 8. *"Wild about Words"* is a language arts activity where students will begin pre-writing activities in the park and will be led through the writing process in an easy-to-understand manner. For Grades 3, 4 and 5.
- In addition, two math courses are offered. *"Math in Motion"* provides students with the understanding of the importance of mathematics in the planning and operation of amusement parks. For Grades 6, 7 and 8. *"Rides and Rithmetic"* involves a wide variety of math applications and measurement skills put to use in the exciting atmosphere of Idlewild. For Grades 3, 4, 5.

To reserve a fun day of learning for students and children or for more information including complete course descriptions, school administrators, teachers and home-school parents can call Idlewild at 724.238.6784 or visit the *"Outdoor Classroom"* page at www.idlewild.com. Space is limited. Tickets are \$11.50 per person and must be ordered in advance.

About Idlewild & SoakZone

Founded in 1878 as a simple picnic ground along the Ligonier Valley Rail Road, [Idlewild & SoakZone](http://www.idlewild.com) (www.idlewild.com) is the oldest amusement park in Pennsylvania, third-oldest in America and is rated the second best kid's park in the world by *Amusement Today* magazine (<http://www.amusementtoday.com>) Family owned and operated by [Kennywood Entertainment](http://www.kennywood.com) (www.kennywood.com), the largest provider of summer fun in western Pennsylvania, Idlewild features seven fun theme areas such as SoakZone Waterpark, Story Book Forest and Mister Rogers' Neighborhood of Make-Believe. Seasonal operations run from May 25 to Labor Day and "Hallowboo," a Halloween-themed event, takes place in October. For more information, call 724.238.3666 or visit www.idlewild.com.