

## These teens relish Envi-Sci

By **Patricia G. Goldman**/ Special To The Tab  
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In our busy suburban world kids don't get to experience nature much unless it's planned into their schedules. That's why Newton's Environmental Science Program for teens is special. You can see this program in action during December on NewTV, Newton's community cable television channel.

This episode of The Environmental Show travels along with teens as they go hiking, biking, canoeing and climbing, and visit woods and ponds, the Charles River, parks, a salt marsh, and mountains, winding up with a stay at the highest peak in the northeast (Mt. Washington). They also participate in a hands-on environmental cleanup project each year. As several of the teens point out, they make friends and have fun while they're out there.

The summer program was started by Newton teachers 38 years ago with a Ford Foundation grant designed to get kids out into the environment instead of learning about it only through books and labs. The program now operates under the Newton Conservation Commission. Many of the students eventually become leaders in the program, trained to teach their younger peers what they have learned about plants and animals, geology, and ecology.

In fact, many of the participants go on to careers in science. All carry with them a lifetime appreciation for our natural environment.

To learn more about enrolling in this July program for teens, visit <http://www.newtonenvisci.org> or call David Backer, Exec. Director, at 617-969-0288.

To watch this show, tune in to NewTV's Blue Channel (Channel 10 for Comcast subscribers and Channel 15 for RCN subscribers). The show will run repeatedly through December on Saturdays (10 a.m.), Mondays (3 p.m.), Tuesdays (1:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m.), Wednesdays (11:30 a.m.) and Thursdays noon, 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

This episode of the Environmental Show is produced by the Newton Conservators. Learn more about the organization's programs and view beautiful photographs at [www.newtonconservators.org](http://www.newtonconservators.org).

*Patricia Goldman is a former Executive Director of the Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America/New England Chapter, a former member of the Newton Human Rights Commission, and is currently a board member of NewTV helping to produce The Environmental Show.*



Environmental Science Program leader Dan Swartz and students Lucas Webber and Adi Uchendu canoe on the Charles river during the annual canoe trip.