



### **Paint the Stream Youth Murals to Have Grand Opening in Phoenicia**

Come experience an artistic celebration of the Upper Esopus Creek Watershed! An opening reception for Paint the Stream Summer Youth Mural Project, featuring painted panels by area youth will be held on Saturday, August 11 from 5:00pm - 7:00pm, at "Beecher's Boardwalk" on Main Street in Phoenicia (next to Brio's). The reception includes refreshments and a walking tour led by the young artists to view the murals along Main Street where the panels will be installed. They will discuss their creative interpretations of the beauty of the Upper Esopus Creek Watershed depicted in the stream shaped panels. The panels will be on display for at least six weeks on the exterior walls of ten Phoenicia businesses.

Paint the Stream is a week long mural installation project for youth led by Shandaken area artists Christie Scheele and Michelle Spark. The activities in the week preceding the reception will include youth exploring the stream bed with a stream educator and creating a large collaborative 4 feet x 8 feet mural painted by all the participants. The children then will plan and paint their own individual 2 feet x 4 feet stream shaped panels for display.

This project is sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County and the Esopus Creek Stream Management Program with additional funding provided by Catskill Watershed Corporation, Kids in the Catskills, Neil Grant Foundation, Phoenicia Rotary Club and Ulster Savings Bank. Paint for the project has been donated by the donations and seconds program of Golden Artist Colors, Inc.

For information contact Michael Courtney, Community Educator: Esopus Creek Stream Management Program at 845-340-3990 or 845-688-5496 or artist Christie Scheele at 845-688-7732.

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