



# About the HODC

Richard F. Hazel, Eastern Shore philanthropist and former president of the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co. of Salisbury, loved the outdoors. More importantly, he loved seeing kids connect with nature at his “farm” on Cooper Road in Eden, Maryland.

An avid sportsman until his untimely passing in February 2008, Mr. Hazel spent much of his free time at his 500+ acre preserve. With his friends and family, he maintained the property as a haven for wildlife, including white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, and endangered Delmarva fox squirrels. While he enjoyed his quiet mornings hunting alone on his farm, Mr. Hazel truly enjoyed lending the property to scouts and youth groups for a variety of daytime activities and overnight camping experiences.



Mr. Hazel knew the value of outdoor experiences for kids long before the concept of “nature deficit disorder.” He knew that spending time outdoors was good for kids’ mental and physical health. To ensure that his farm would always serve as a natural location for kids to get outside, he established a foundation to maintain the property in perpetuity.

The Hazel Foundation is very pleased to honor the legacy of Richard Hazel through the establishment of the Hazel Outdoor Discovery Center (HODC). Mr. Hazel’s vision was to provide a place where children of all races and walks of life can come together to discover common ground and experience the beauty of nature, as well as be introduced to the sport of hunting and the preservation of nature. The mission of the HODC is to provide opportunities to explore and celebrate nature, and to promote harmony between all people through natural experiences. Thanks to Mr. Hazel’s generosity and vision, the HODC is made available to scout and youth groups at no cost.

Richard Hazel will be remembered for years to come for his generosity to the Eastern Shore. His legacy and giving spirit remain alive at the Hazel Outdoor Discovery Center.

## Camping Rules

- **If the gate is closed, the code to the lock is 6521.** Line up the numbers and push the hasp into the lock once or twice. The key to the building is hanging on the cornerpost of the pavilion above the grill.
- Do not litter. Please bring your own trash bags. Be sure to dispose of any trash at the proper sites located near the HODC lodge. **Remember to take your trash with you when you leave the HODC.**

- Be aware of the weather forecast before camping. Dress and pack accordingly.
- Do not disturb nature more than is necessary. Set up camp on grounds that appear to have been used before. Do not take natural artifacts or other hiking memorabilia from the HODC.
- When fishing, please remember to practice catch & release. Do not throw logs or rocks in the fishing ponds.
- Be sure to bring your own locally-sourced firewood. Firewood brought in from out-of-state may introduce exotic insect pests. Do not cut standing trees, bushes, or shrubs for firewood. Practice safe campfire techniques. Use pre-existing fire rings when possible and make sure campfires are fully extinguished before leaving the camping area.
- Store food out of reach of wild animals. Do not feed wild animals.
- Be considerate of others who may be camping. Be conscious of loud noises, cell phones, radios, etc.
- In the back-country, please defecate 20-30 yards away from campsites and water, dispose of bodily waste 6-8 inches underground, use biodegradable toilet paper, and cover with soil and leaves.
- When hiking, please stay within the HODC boundary and do not trespass on our neighbor's property.
- Do not drink from natural water sources.
- Do not use soap to wash yourself, clothing or dishes within 50 yards of water.
- Carry out what you carry in. Practice "leave no trace" camping and hiking. Leave campsites looking better than when you arrived.
- Before you leave the HODC lodge, please sweep the floor, wipe off the tables, mop the bathroom floor, and wipe down the sinks and toilet. Please leave the lodge neat and orderly and report anything in need of repair.