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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kids Ride Free on June 11th . . . at Essex Steam Train & Riverboat!

June 1, 2011, Essex, CT - - Essex Steam Train & Riverboat is delighted to participate in **Connecticut Open House Day, Saturday, June 11, 2011** with a special offer – **Kids Ride Free All Day!**

Connecticut Open House Day is a statewide celebration designed to raise awareness among Connecticut residents of all that this wonderful state has to offer - - rich history, world-class art, family activities and opportunities for rest and relaxation. Ideally, citizens will discover Connecticut treasures and share their findings with visiting friends and family.

Robert Bell, President of the Valley Railroad Company says, "Connecticut Open House Day is particularly sentimental this season, as Essex Steam Train & Riverboat celebrates 40 years of unique passenger access to the natural beauty and history of the Connecticut River Valley. We certainly hope our ***Kids Ride Free*** offer encourages Connecticut families to hop aboard for a day in this unspoiled river valley that's in our own backyard."

Since July, 1971, Essex Steam Train & Riverboat has embraced its role as custodian and steward of the Valley Railroad State Park portion of the Connecticut River Valley - - one of the "last great places on earth." Connecticut Open House Day is a wonderful opportunity for Essex Steam Train & Riverboat to share the Connecticut River Valley's abundant nature, its islands, tidelands, marshes, and wildlife, that the recreating public might otherwise never have an opportunity to experience.

Children ages 11 and under qualify for this "Kids Ride Free" offer and must be accompanied by an adult passenger with a valid Connecticut Driver's License. Seating is available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

For more details on **Connecticut Open House Day**, go to **CTvisit.com**. For **Essex Steam Train & Riverboat** information, call **1-800-377-3987** or visit www.essexsteamtrain.com.

The Valley Railroad Company

Incorporated in 1969, The Valley Railroad Company opened the Essex Steam Train & Riverboat to the public 40 years ago, in 1971. The *only* steam train and riverboat connection in the United States, Essex Steam Train & Riverboat continues to flourish as a Connecticut icon and vibrant tourist destination, attracting over 140,000 visitors a year. Tour goers enjoy a 2.5 hour narrated journey through the scenic Connecticut River Valley. Special events include: *The Eagle Flyer, Day Out With Thomas, The Valley Railroad Circus Train & Big Top Show, Murder Mystery, Fright Train, Santa Special, North Pole Express* and *Your Hand on the Throttle*.

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