



# National Environmental Education Week

A National Environmental Education Foundation Program

May 2009

[www.EEWeek.org](http://www.EEWeek.org)



## Greetings!

Thanks to you, our partners, National Environmental Education Week (EE Week) 2009 was a huge success! Nearly 2,600 schools, nature centers, museums, zoos and scout groups registered to participate in EE Week and brought environmental learning to K-12 students. One hundred twenty national nonprofits, businesses and government agencies contributed resources, planned events and assisted with EE Week promotion. Thirty-six governors and 30 mayors issued EE Week proclamations stressing the value of and need for environmental education in their states and cities. With more partners, more resources and more support than ever, EE Week 2009 was the biggest and best event to date!

Now that your EE Week events and activities are over, it is time to share your environmental education success story. Contribute your photos and stories to the [EE Week Photo Blog](#) and enter to win great prizes. Report the results of your [School Water Audit](#) and add your water savings to that of schools around the country.

And don't forget to use the coupon you received from [Acorn Naturalists](#) when you registered for EE Week 2009. The coupon for \$10 off is valid through June 30.

Sincerely,

Jessica Culverhouse  
National EE Week Coordinator

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### Our Program

National Environmental Education (EE) Week is the largest organized environmental education event in the United States. EE Week promotes understanding and protection of the natural world by creating a full week of environmentally-themed lessons and activities in K-12 classrooms, nature centers, zoos, museums, and aquariums.

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## Last Call: EE Week's Photo Blog Contest

### Submit your photos for a chance to win prizes from Acorn Naturalists!

Do you have a positive story of how you and your organization are bringing environmental education to students? EE Week would like to hear about it!

Upload your photos and stories on the [EE Week Photo Blog](#) and enter the 2009 Photo Blog Contest.



The contest has two parts: submit a photo of an environmental education activity and a write brief narrative describing the activity in the photograph. The submission period is from April 20 to May 22, 2009. The top three entries will win gift certificates to Acorn Naturalists (first place: \$150 gift certificate, second place: \$100 gift certificate and third place: \$50 gift certificate.)

When submitting your photos to the contest, be sure to have all individuals in the photographs sign our [release form](#). This form is required in order for your photo to be eligible for the Photo Blog Contest. Parent signatures are required for minors.

No purchase necessary. All contest participants must be at least 18 years old, residents of the U.S., affiliated with an organization which provides K-12 educational programs and meet all eligibility requirements. Void where prohibited. For complete Photo Blog Contest rules, visit [www.eeweek.org/rules](http://www.eeweek.org/rules).

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## Signature Event

### Be Water Wise Miami - Miami, Fla.

[Be Water Wise Miami](#), EE Week's 2009 signature event, involved students, teachers and custodians from 14 Miami schools in an investigation of water use and conservation at home and at school. The program was launched on April 15 at Jose de Diego Middle School with City of Miami Mayor Manny Diaz and Miami-Dade County Public Schools Superintendent Alberto Carvalho. During the launch event, students demonstrated the Water Measurement Activity for the mayor, the superintendent and the press. Mayor Diaz proclaimed April 15 Be Water Wise Miami Day. [Watch a video segment that aired on CBS4 in Miami.](#)

Students are currently collecting water use data and compiling their findings and recommendations to present to city and county officials in the coming weeks. Interested in getting involved? [EE Week's School Water Audit](#) will guide you through conducting a similar activity at your school.

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## EE Week Partner Highlights

### West Springfield Middle School - West Springfield, Mass.

Students from West Springfield Middle School in West Springfield, Mass. worked with volunteers from a local business to test the water quality of a runoff pond behind their school. They were featured in a story on WWLP 22 News Springfield. [Watch the video.](#)

## Contact Us

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### **John Eaton Elementary School - Washington, D.C.**

Fourth graders at John Eaton Elementary School in Washington, D.C. learned about erosion and took action to prevent it by planting on the school grounds. They were featured in a story by Medill Reports: Washington. [Watch the video.](#)

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## **EE Programs and Resources**

### **MonarchLIVE: A Distance Learning Adventure - May 19 and 21, 2009**

Take your students on a distance learning adventure with MonarchLIVE and join in the annual migration of the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), one of the most spectacular events in the insect world. Lesson plans and additional resources for educators are provided. [Learn more](#)

### **Rachel Carson Sense of Wonder Contest - Entry deadline June 10, 2009**

The U.S. EPA, Generations United, The Dance Exchange and the Rachel Carson Council, Inc., announce a poetry, essay, photography and dance contest. Entries must be submitted by a team of two more individuals from different generations and should express "the Sense of Wonder that you feel for the sea, the night sky, forests, birds, wildlife, and all that is beautiful to your eyes." [Learn more](#)

### **Awaking to the Science of our World - August 10-14, 2009**

Global Youth Leadership Institute presents Awaking to the Science of our World, a leadership program for middle school students and educators in Stonington, Conn. Institute participants will focus on the environment while engaging in hands-on science, collaborative leadership, understanding personal identity and anti-racism and global pluralism activities. Register by July 1. [Learn more](#)

### **Water Watchers: Conserving Water at Your School and Home**

Water Watchers: Conserving Water at Your School and Home, a school water audit and conservation handbook, will help educators mentor a student-driven audit of water use at school and in their homes. Lessons in the guide are arranged to lead students from awareness of basic water conservation issues to responsible action and stewardship of their water environment. [Learn more](#)

### **The Year of Science May theme: Sustainability and the Environment**

The Year of Science 2009 is a chance to celebrate science. Throughout the year, participating groups from around the world will engage the public in science and work to improve public understanding about how science works, why it matters, and who scientists are. Visit the Web site for educational activities, online games, links, blogs and other resources. You can also search for Year of Science events in your area throughout the year. [Learn more](#)

### **Water in Focus**

Water in Focus, a program of Outside the Lens, is a global photography project that calls youth to action as they document the use, waste, conservation and pollution of our most precious resource through words and images. Students are invited to submit photos for the online virtual mural. Resources for teachers and parents are provided. [Learn more](#)

For more classroom resources, be sure to visit the [General EE Resources](#) page and the [Curricula Library](#) on our website.

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## Funding Resources

### Classroom Earth Professional Development Grants - Application deadline June 12, 2009

Classroom Earth will award 20 Professional Development grants to high school teachers across the country. Recipients will take two online courses in Environmental Education offered by the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point. These highly praised courses will help teachers incorporate environmental topics to create interactive, science-based and informative lessons for their high school classrooms. Through the courses, teachers can earn graduate-level credits. [Learn more](#)

### NAAEE Conference Scholarships - Application deadline June 12, 2009

The 2009 North American Association for Environmental Education conference will be held in Portland, Ore. October 7-10. A limited number of scholarships are available for discounted or free conference registration, including the Affordability Scholarship, the Diversity Scholarship and the William B. Stapp College Student Scholarship. [Learn more](#)



### Green Your School Contest - Submission deadline October 9, 2009

The Student Conservation Association's "Green Your School" contest is a national competition to stimulate conservation service projects designed by high school students that improve, restore, beautify, or conserve their high school environment. Prizes will be awarded to winning high schools and include one grand prize of \$5,000 and two first prizes of \$2,500. [Learn more](#)

### Nickelodeon's Big Green Grants

Nickelodeon's Big Green Grants Program provides resources to schools and community-based organizations to support environmentally friendly projects that educate and inspire kids to take care of the environment, be active, live healthily and engage in community service. Each Green Grant will provide up to \$5,000. Applications are accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis throughout the year. [Learn more](#)

For more grants and awards, be sure to visit the [Funding Resources](#) page on our website!

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## Professional Development

### Climate Discovery Online Courses

The National Center for Atmospheric Research offers a series of seven-week online courses for middle and high school teachers that combine geosciences content, information about current climate research, easy to implement hands-on activities and group discussions. Course titles include Introduction to Earth's Climate, Earth System Science: A Climate Change Perspective, and Understanding Climate Change Today. Graduate-level credits are available, and classes begin on June 19. [Learn more](#)

### **Smart by Nature: Schooling for Sustainability - Berkely, Calif.**

The Center for Ecoliteracy presents Smart by Nature: Schooling for Sustainability June 22-24. This three-day professional development seminar is designed for individuals and teams of K-12 educators, parents and others interested in schooling for sustainability. Topics for include: food and its connection to health, academics, and the environment; the integration of ecological teaching across the curriculum; and the campus as a system. Participants will receive guidance and support for designing project-based learning activities. A limited number of scholarships are available. [Learn more](#)

### **Unity College Summer Programs for Educators - Unity, Maine**

Unity College is a learning environment where sustainability and environmental awareness are central to the school's mission and vision. This summer, educators are invited to participate in two professional development events. [A Creative Convergence: Art, Stewardship and Sustainability](#), July 12-15, will bring together the creative inventiveness of the art community with the urgency of the science community in a response to escalating environmental issues. Apply by June 20. [Education in a Changing Climate](#), July 26-31, will engage the best practices of the humanities, the arts, and environmental science in service of a broader and deeper understanding of biodiversity, sustainability and climate change. Apply by July 1. Graduate credits are available for both programs.

### **Mysteries, Secrets, and Solutions: Connecting with the Energy Research at Berkley Lab - Berkely, Calif.**

Explore the latest research on energy and climate change at this Educator Institute presented by Sally Ride Science at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory July 15-16. Topics include solar and nano-technology, energy efficient buildings, and biofuels. [Learn more](#)

### **Ecosystem Literacy Initiative Institutes for Teachers - Millbrook, N.Y.**

Join scientists and educators from the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies for a week of hands-on ecology in Millbrook, New York. This program is designed to help you teach about the ecosystems we depend upon. The Ecosystem Literacy Initiative Institute for middle and high school teachers will be held on July 13-18. The Institute for elementary school teachers will be held on August 17-21. [Learn more](#)

**For more professional development opportunities, be sure to visit the [Professional Development](#) page on our website!**



The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) provides knowledge to trusted professionals who, with their credibility, amplify messages to national audiences to solve everyday environmental problems. Together, we generate lasting positive change.

NEEF partners with professionals in health, education, media, business and public land management to promote daily actions for helping people protect and enjoy the environment. Through our primary programs - Classroom Earth, National Public Lands Day, National Environmental Education Week, Business and Environment, Earth Gauge<sup>(r)</sup> and Health & Environment - we offer Americans knowledge to live by. To learn more, call (202) 833-2933 or visit

<http://www.neefusa.org/>

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