



National Environmental Education Week

A National Environmental Education Foundation Program

September 2009

www.EEWeek.org



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Greetings!

Now that the new school year has begun, we'd like to remind you that EEWeek.org is available year round with hundreds of resources for educators of every grade level and subject area. We hope you'll take advantage of the countless free lesson plans, activities, professional development opportunities and other tools made available on our site.

[National Public Lands Day](#) is Saturday, September 26. We encourage you to start the school year off with a day of environmental learning and service by participating in NPLD! Read below for more information on this and other upcoming events.

Mark your calendar: **National EE Week is April 11-17, 2010!** Registered schools and organizations will receive certificates of participation, access to online tools and resources, opportunities to network with others working to integrate environmental education and discounts and special offers for educational materials. Participation in EE Week is absolutely free! [Register](#) your school or organization today!

Sincerely,

Jessica Stelzner 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 actively engaging K-12th grade students and educators in an inspired week of environmental learning before Earth Day.

National Public Lands Day

Saturday, September 26, 2009

[National Public Lands Day](#) is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands Americans enjoy. On Saturday, September 26, volunteers around the country are participating in National Public Lands Day.

Dare Elementary School in York County, Va. has put together a team of parents, volunteers and Earth Kids Club members who will gather on National Public Lands Day to pick up trash, prune shrubs and build an outdoor learning center on the school campus. Remember: your public school grounds are also public lands!

Visit www.publiclandsday.org to register a site or locate a volunteer event near you, and be sure to check out the list of [educational resources](#).

Quick Links

[Register for EE Week 2010](#)

[FAQs](#)

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Contact Us

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Free Paper Use Reduction Stickers for Schools

These Come from Trees stickers reduce paper overuse and waste

[These Come from Trees](#) helps reduce the unintentional overuse of paper through a simple, contextual reminder: wash resistant stickers that can be posted on paper towel dispensers, napkin dispensers, photocopiers and other places where paper products are distributed.



Testing by the These Come from Trees project's founders and participating schools show reductions in paper consumption of up to 30%. Hunt Valley Elementary School in Fairfax County, Va. recently published the results of their first year using These Come From Trees stickers, recording a [29% reduction of paper towel use](#)--saving the paper towel equivalent of 18 trees and \$840.

These Come from Trees stickers are free of charge to K-12 schools. Permission of the school's administration is required. [Apply online for a free set of stickers](#) to post at your school, and visit These Come from Trees online for [lesson ideas](#) corresponding to the campaign.

Upcoming EE Celebrations

World Water Monitoring Day - September 18

World Water Monitoring Day™ (WWMD) is an international education and outreach program that builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world by engaging citizens to conduct basic monitoring of their local water bodies. World Water Monitoring Day is officially celebrated on September 18; however, the deadline for submitting data to the WWMD database is December 31. [Learn more](#)

National Estuaries Day - September 26

National Estuaries Day, established in 1988 as part of Coast Weeks, is an annual celebration of the vibrant coastal areas where rivers meet the sea -- estuaries. The purpose of National Estuaries Day is to promote the importance of estuaries and the need to protect them. Countless National Estuaries Day activities occur nationwide, from photography contests to canoe trips to estuary clean-ups. [Learn more](#)

Worldwide Day of Play - September 26

On the Worldwide Day of Play, Nickelodeon will turn off all programming and go dark for three hours to encourage kids and their families to turn off the TV, get up, get out and go play! Ideas for play, suggestions for how to "green" your play activities and grant opportunities are included on the website. [Learn more](#)

Earth Science Week - October 11-17

Earth Science Week offers opportunities to discover the Earth sciences and engage in responsible stewardship of the Earth. Each year, local groups, educators and interested individuals organize celebratory events around Earth Science Week. "Understanding Climate," the theme of Earth Science Week 2009, will promote scientific understanding of a timely, vital topic: Earth's climate. [Learn more](#)

EE Programs and Resources

Growing Up WILD

Growing Up WILD is an early childhood education program that builds on children's sense of wonder about nature and invites them to explore wildlife and the world around them. Through a wide range of activities and experiences, Growing Up WILD provides an early foundation for developing positive impressions about the natural world and lifelong social and academic skills. [Learn more](#)

Disney's Planet Challenge

Disney's Planet Challenge is a project-based environmental competition for 4th-6th grade classrooms that will empower students to make a difference in school, at home and in their local community. Participating students will identify an environmental issue in their local community and come up with a solution that they manage and document from start to finish. Participation in the program is free. [Learn more](#)

Casey Trees ROOTS Curriculum

ROOTS (Restoring Our Own Trees Through Service) is an education initiative of [Casey Trees](#) that connects educators and students to their schoolyard environment. All of the lessons center on trees, but each uses a specific approach for teaching, such as science, math, reading, writing or art. [Download the PDF](#)

Pulse of the Planet

Pulse of the Planet is a website supported by the National Science Foundation that offers audio programs, stories and blogs from scientists as well as educator resources. Educator resources include lesson plans on climate, water, energy and conservation. [Learn more](#)

Sampling the Sea

Sampling the Sea engages middle and high school students around the world in monitoring, analyzing and sharing information about the declining global fish population. Sampling the Sea uses multi-disciplinary teams of students, scientists and new media experts to engage the next generation of consumers in a global dialogue on the interrelationships among local human customs, regulatory laws, fishing practices, wildlife management and the future of the sea. [Get involved](#)

Engaging Students in Conservation: Protecting the Endangered Snow Leopard

Engaging Students in Conservation: Protecting the Endangered Snow Leopard is an interdisciplinary 1-2 week unit developed by Facing the Future in collaboration with the Snow Leopard Trust. It includes five dynamic lessons and culminates with a service-learning project. The unit is designed for 5-8th grade students in science and social studies. Though the lessons are designed as a comprehensive unit, each lesson can also stand alone. The unit is available for free download at the website. [Learn more](#)

For more classroom resources, visit the [Curricula Library](#) and [General EE Resources](#) pages on our Web site.

Funding Resources

Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge

The Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge offers students the opportunity to make a sustainable change, matched to science, math, and reading/language arts concepts and skills students are required to learn. Teams of students should find an adult mentor who will play an active role in guiding student development of the project and submission of materials. The entry period for submissions has already begun and ends January 31, 2010 for elementary school groups and March 15, 2010 for middle school groups. [Learn more](#)

SCA Green Your School Contest - Application deadline Oct. 9

SCA's Green Your School Contest is a national competition to stimulate and/or identify conservation service projects designed by high school students that improve, restore, beautify or conserve their school environment. There will be one

Grand Prize of \$5,000 and two runner-up prizes of \$2,500 each. Prizes will be awarded directly to high schools and not to individuals. [Learn more](#)

Planet Connect Grants - Application deadline Oct. 30

Planet Connect is accepting applications for their high school student grants. Students who have an innovative solution to an environmental problem at school or in the local community can receive \$1,000 to support their project in addition to a local environmental internship. Applicants must be between the ages of 14 and 19 and enrolled in a U.S. high school program. [Learn more](#)

Take Education on the Road Field Trip Grants - Application deadline Nov. 3

The Target Field Trip Grants program encourages educators to take education on the road by offering 5,000 grants of up to \$800 each. This one-of-a-kind grant program enables students to explore the world outside the classroom by helping fund field trips to educational destinations. Education professionals employed by an accredited K-12 public, private or charter school in the United States are eligible to apply. [Learn more](#)

Toyota TAPESTRY Grants - Application deadline Jan. 18

A partnership between Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. and the National Science Teachers Association, the Toyota TAPESTRY Grants for Science Teachers program offers grants to K-12 science teachers for innovative projects that enhance science education in the school and/or school district. Fifty large grants and a minimum of 20 mini-grants, totaling \$550,000 in all, will be awarded this year. [Learn more](#)

For more grants and awards, visit the [Funding Resources](#) page on our Web site.

Professional Development

PolarTREC - Application deadline Sept. 20

PolarTREC is an educational research experience, funded by the National Science Foundation and managed by the Arctic Research Consortium, in which K-12 teachers participate in polar research, working closely with scientists as a pathway to improving science education. Thirty-six U.S. teachers will have the opportunity to spend two to six weeks working with a research team in the Arctic or Antarctic, exploring the environments, cultures, history and science. [Learn more](#)

Smithsonian Education Online Conference on Climate Change - Sept. 29-Oct. 1

Educators are invited to participate in investigations and deepen their understanding of climate science through the Smithsonian Online Education Conference on Climate Change. During the free online conference, educators will explore Smithsonian research and collections related to the evidence, impact and response to climate change. Alongside Smithsonian scientists and curators, they will look at the issues surrounding climate change from the perspectives of science, history and art. [Learn more](#)

Why Do We Explore? Online Workshop for Educators - Oct. 5-16

During this free online workshop, NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration and Research will introduce the new Okeanos Explorer Education Materials Collection built around the themes: Why Do We Explore, How Do We Explore and What Do We Expect to Find. Scientific presenters and education facilitators will work with participants to delve into the benefits of ocean exploration targeting climate change, energy, human health and ocean health. Workshop participants will interact with ocean explorers, converse and share classroom applications with other educators and find a wealth of multimedia resources. [Register today](#)

For more opportunities, visit the [Professional Development page on our Web site.](#)



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(r) 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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