



# National Environmental Education Week

A National Environmental Education Foundation Program

August 2010

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



twitter

Find us on Facebook

## Greetings!

As many of you begin the new school year, you may be looking for ways to prepare for student questions about the Gulf oil spill. Many schools have opted to focus on the spill as a unifying interdisciplinary theme to explore throughout the 2010-2011 school year. To help educators answer difficult questions and incorporate lessons from the spill into their core curriculum, we've compiled a list of oil spill resources and lesson plans that are now available at [EEWeek.org](http://EEWeek.org). Read below for more details.

Many upcoming funding opportunities are also laid out below, to help support environmental education projects you may have planned for the fall.

Lastly, don't forget to visit [publiclandsday.org](http://publiclandsday.org) for ideas on how to engage youth in hands-on stewardship and outdoor learning activities on National Public Lands Day, September 25.

Sincerely,

Jessica Culverhouse  
Program Manager

Sarah Kozicki  
Program Associate

## Oil Spill Resources and Curricula

Now Available at [EEWeek.org](http://EEWeek.org)

On April 20, 2010, an explosion on the Deepwater Horizon oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico resulted in the largest offshore oil spill to date. Young people are asking their teachers and parents difficult questions about the causes and effects of the spill. The resources and curricula provided at [EEWeek.org](http://EEWeek.org) offer students and educators an opportunity to explore the effects of oil spills on people, wildlife and ecosystems, investigate cleanup strategies and reflect on ways to prevent future environmental catastrophes of this scale. Visit the Oil Spill [webpage](#) to browse oil spill resources and curricula.

### In This Issue

[Oil Spill Resources & Curricula](#)

[School Spotlight](#)

[National Public Lands Day](#)

[EE Events & Celebrations](#)

[EE Resources](#)

[Student Contests and Awards](#)

[Grants](#)

[Professional Development](#)

### Our Program

National Environmental Education (EE) Week is the largest organized environmental education event in the United States.

EE Week connects educators with environmental resources to promote K-12 students' understanding of the environment.

### Quick Links

[Register for EE Week 2010](#)

[FAQs](#)

## School Spotlight

### Louisiana High School Supports Gulf Recovery Efforts

Morgan County High School in Houma, La. borders many of the bayous and estuaries most affected by the Gulf oil spill. Already home to innovative environmental education efforts, Principal Mickey P. Fabre III offered school space and resources to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, contractors and local fishermen being trained in hazardous material cleanup.



Trainees, taking part in Gulf oil spill recovery efforts, use the computer lab at Morgan County High School.

Staff members at the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF), inspired by Morgan County High School's efforts, decided to lend financial support to the school. NEEF's contribution will assist the school in keeping its facilities and equipment open to hazmat trainees.

"As a community, we wanted to do our part to help the environment by working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during training efforts," Principal Fabre wrote. "Little did we know that our partnership would lead to this tremendous blessing."

"We're honored to be able to assist the efforts of Morgan County High School," said Diane Wood, NEEF president. "Principal Fabre and his staff are already undertaking some wonderful environmental education efforts. Opening their doors for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for these essential trainings exemplifies the generous spirit of this school, its staff and its students."

In addition to the training, Fabre said the school will use the oil spill and recovery efforts as a teachable moment, integrating lessons about the event and its impact into school curriculum throughout the coming school year.

[Success Stories](#)

[More On Us](#)

### Contact Us

Jessica Culverhouse  
Program Manager  
National EE Week  
(202) 261-6484

Sarah Kozicki  
Program Associate  
National EE Week  
(202) 261-6474

[EEWeek@neefusa.org](mailto:EEWeek@neefusa.org)



## Get Ready for National Public Lands Day

An excellent service-learning opportunity

Looking for service-learning opportunities this fall? September 25, 2010 is [National Public Lands Day](#) (NPLD), the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance America's public lands. NPLD engages a diverse audience of adult and youth volunteers, whether at a national park, nature center or school garden. Visit [www.publiclandsday.org](http://www.publiclandsday.org) to [find an existing project](#) or [register your own](#).



NPLD is also a great opportunity to educate youth about environmental stewardship and bring learning outdoors. For ideas, check out NPLD's [educational resource library](#), which includes lesson plans, project ideas, recreational opportunities and more.

Watch the National Public Lands Day PSA with Phillippe Cousteau:



NPLD and EE Week are programs of the [National Environmental Education Foundation](#).

## Upcoming EE Events & Celebrations

### World Water Monitoring Day - September 18

World Water Monitoring Day 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.

Participants are encouraged to register their site and report their data before December 31 to be included in the Year in Review report. Test kits can be ordered online and resources are available as free downloads. [Learn more](#)



### Earth Science Week - October 10-16

Since 1998, the American Geological Institute has organized Earth Science Week to help the public gain a better understanding and appreciation for the Earth Sciences and to encourage stewardship of the Earth. "Exploring Energy." the theme of Earth Science Week 2010 will engage young people and the public in learning about Earth's energy resources. Resources for teachers and students are available. [Learn more](#)

### Geography Awareness Week - November 14-20

Geography Awareness Week (GAW) is held the third week of each November to promote the importance of geography education in the United States. The theme this year will be freshwater.



Educators are encouraged to coordinate a GAW event, either by following the suggested school-based events on the *Geography Action!* [website](#) or by creating their own. The *Geography Action!* Program, which provides training and resources for educators to inform and excite their students and communities about geography, culminates during Geography Awareness Week. [Learn more](#)

## EE Resources

### National Park Foundation Electronic Field Trips

Electronic Field Trips (EFT) give students the opportunity to learn about a particular topic through national parks they may never get a chance to visit. Each EFT consists of two components: 1) a televised broadcast from a national park featuring National Park Service Rangers and youth hosts and 2) a website featuring downloadable lesson plans for teachers and interactive games for students. On October 13, 2010 the next installment in the Electronic Field Trip series will teach students about climate change through a visit to North Cascades National Park. [Learn more](#)

### Young Voices on Climate Change

Young Voices on Climate Changes is a series of short films featuring young people using science and data to reduce the carbon footprint of their homes, schools, communities and states. The films represent replicable success stories. The films can be viewed online. [Learn more](#)

### Lab Out Loud

Lab Out Loud is a biweekly podcast from the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) on science teaching and science news. A selection of links and notes accompany each episode, enabling the listener to dig deeper into the topics discussed. [Learn more](#)

For more resources and classroom materials, visit us [online](#).

## Student Contests and Awards

### National Geographic Bee - Registration deadline October 15

The National Geographic Bee is a national contest and educational outreach program of the National Geographic Society designed to encourage the teaching and study of geography. Students in grades 4-8 are eligible to participate. [Learn more](#)

### Earth Science Week Contests - Submission deadline October 15

The Earth Science Week contests this year include photography, visual arts and essays. The photography contest challenges photographers of any age to use their camera to capture their community's use of energy. The visual arts contest asks elementary students to create a poster showing energy's place in the way the planet works. The essay contest, for students in grades 6-9, asks participants to write an essay on the ways energy interacts with the Earth system and how people can be efficient, responsible stewards of the planet's energy resources. Prizes include \$300 and a copy of the American Geological Institute's *Faces of Earth* DVD. [Learn more](#)

### Nestlé USA Very Best in Youth Program - Entry deadline November 1

The Very Best in Youth Program honors young people between the ages of 13 and 18 who have excelled in school and are making their community and the world a better place. Nestlé will award winners \$1,000 to donate to a charity of their choice as well as a trip to Los Angeles to attend the Nestlé Very Best in Youth awards ceremony. Entrants must have two letters of recommendation, a copy of their transcript and current report card and parent or legal guardian permission to be eligible. [Learn more](#)



### SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Environmental Excellence Awards - Application deadline December 1

SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment recognize the outstanding efforts of K-12 students and teachers across the country who are working at the grassroots level to protect and preserve the environment. Eight school or community groups are selected each year to win \$10,000 and one environmental educator/leader receives \$5,000. [Learn more](#)

### Ways to Help

WaysToHelp.org invites teens in the United States to apply for grants to fund their community service ideas across any one of 16 issue areas, including clean water, land preservation, global warming and recycling. Grant requests are reviewed and responded to on a monthly basis. [Learn more](#)

For more student contests and awards, visit us [online](#).

## Grants

### STEMester of Service Grants - Application deadline August 20

Youth Service America will implement the STEMester of Service program, a semester-long service-learning framework to engage educators and students in addressing critical environmental needs and connecting them to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) curricula, specifically science and technology. The grant is for middle schools with large populations of disadvantaged youth. [Learn more](#)

**The Donald Samull Classroom Herb Garden Grant - Application deadline September 30**

The Herb Society of America has established two herb garden grants for teachers in grades 3-6 to ensure that classroom teacher Donald Samull's tradition of using herbs with students will continue for years to come. Public and/or private 3-6 grade teachers with a minimum of 15 students may apply for an indoor or outdoor herb garden grant. Five schools will receive indoor herb growing stations and four schools will receive \$200 "Seed Money" to establish an outdoor herb garden. [Learn more](#)

**John Muir Conservation Award - Application deadline October 1**

The John Muir Association is accepting applications for the John Muir Conservation Award in four categories: Conservationist of the Year, Environmental Education Conservation Award, Nonprofit or Public Agency Conservation Award and the Business Conservation Award. [Learn more](#)

**Healthy Sprouts Award - Application deadline October 1**

The Subaru Healthy Sprouts Award recognizes and supports youth gardening programs focused on teaching about the environment, nutrition and hunger issues in the United States. Schools planning to garden in 2011 with at least 15 children between the ages of 3 and 18 are eligible to apply. Award package includes a \$500 gift certificate to the Gardening with Kids catalog and online store, gardening supplies and educational materials. [Learn more](#)

**Get Ingrained Grants Program - Application deadline October 4**

The Get Ingrained Grants Program will award two \$15,000 grants to people or organizations committed to bettering the health of their communities through nutrition-driven initiatives. Some project examples include a community garden that provides access to fresh fruits and vegetables or a healthy eating workshop for kids. Applications must detail how their project helps endorse a healthy lifestyle and promotes informed food and beverage choice. [Learn more](#)

**People's Garden School Pilot Program - Application deadline October 8**

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is accepting applications for a People's Garden School Pilot grant competition. Grants will be awarded to develop and run community gardens at eligible high poverty schools with the goal of teaching students about agriculture production practices, diet and nutrition. Public or private non-profit organizations are eligible to apply. The grant offering will be awarded as a cooperative agreement between the award recipient and the FNS. [Learn more](#)

**Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grants - Application deadline October 15**

The Lowe's Toolbox for Education offers grants of up to \$5,000 to schools and parent/teacher groups across the United States to support grassroots school and community projects. Grant projects should encourage parent involvement and build stronger community ties. [Learn more](#)



For more grants and awards, visit us [online](#).

## Professional Development

### Seminars on Science - Online - Registration deadline August 27

Registration is open for the fall sessions of Seminars on Science from the American Museum of Natural History. Courses are co-taught by an experienced classroom teacher and a research scientist. Upcoming courses include The Ocean System, Earth: Inside and Out, Water and more. Courses are \$465 plus a \$25 one-time registration fee. Graduate credit is available at an additional cost. Register early for a \$50 discount. [Learn more](#)

### Lesson from the Deep - Online

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), in partnership with the College of Exploration, will offer the free online workshop *Lessons from the Deep: Exploring the Gulf of Mexico's Deep-Sea Ecosystems* October 11-29, 2010. The course will be supported by keynote addresses from scientists and an Exploring the Gulf of Mexico's Deep-Sea Ecosystems Materials Collection. The collection includes a selection of lesson plans together with new lesson plans and additional information about the Deepwater Horizon blowout event. The workshop will be free for all participants and will be available 24/7. Registration will be open at the end of August through the website. [Learn more](#)

### Life On a Water Planet - Online

Nova Southeastern University Oceanographic Center Distance Education offers *Life on a Water Planet*, an online interdisciplinary course exploring water issues from physical, social, cultural, economic, legal and institutional perspectives. The course is organized into ten units. Most units run from Monday to Monday and include readings, online activities and discussions and web resources. Undergraduate, graduate and general interest credit is available. [Learn more](#)

For more opportunities, visit us [online](#).



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>.