



National Environmental Education Week

A National Environmental Education Foundation Program

November 2010

www.EEWeek.org



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Greetings!

Although the winter months might bring cold temperatures to many areas of the country, opportunities for environmental learning abound. Seasonal shifts allow for exploration of the phases of the water cycle, adaptations of plants and wildlife, migrations and much more. These topics are also important in the study of our ocean and enable educators to introduce EE Week's 2011 annual theme: [Ocean Connections](#).

Mark your calendar -- EE Week is **April 10-16, 2011**. And in honor of our theme, Ocean Connections, we'll be posting lesson plans, facts, quizzes and other resources at EEWeek.org. See below to learn more.

Sincerely,

Jessica Culverhouse
Program Manager

Sarah Kozicki
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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.

EE Week 2011 Theme: Ocean Connections

Join us April 10-16, 2011 to explore our vital connection to the ocean with teachers and students nationwide

The ocean covers nearly three quarters of our planet's surface, provides 70 percent of the oxygen in the atmosphere and houses about 20 percent of the known species on Earth. It regulates climate and weather and provides food and energy resources for humans worldwide. No matter how far from the coast, water in every stream or river eventually ends up in the ocean, and all life on Earth is dependent upon its health. More than half of all Americans live within 50 miles of the coast, but whether near or far, our lives are inextricably linked to the ocean.



Recognizing the importance of protecting the health of our ocean and understanding our dependence upon it regardless of its proximity, EE Week's 2011 theme is **Ocean Connections**. [Learn more](#).

[Register today](#) to join thousands of educators and students across the country in exploring our vital connection to the ocean during National Environmental Education Week, **April 10-16, 2011**.

Quick Links

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Contact Us

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Program Spotlight

Alabama Students Learn Environmental Lessons on National Public Lands Day

The Black Belt Environmental Science and Arts Program (BBESAP) at Auburn University's Environmental Institute has offered outdoor learning experiences for students in grades 5-8 for the past nine years. BBESAP works with students from under-served rural schools in Alabama's Black Belt region, a crescent-shaped prairie named for its unusual black soil, extending along the Alabama and Tombigbee Rivers.



On [National Public Lands Day](#) 2010, the BEESAP engaged seventh grade students in a stream cleanup at Bridgeport Park in Wilcox County. The students also participated in an ecosystem study and learned how to identify animals in an area by looking for clues such as scat, tracks, feathers and shells. The students also removed over 500 pounds of trash from the area.

[Continue reading...](#)

We want to hear from you! Share your environmental education projects,

programs and activities with us, and your school or organization may be featured in an upcoming newsletter or at EEWeek.org. Contact us at eeweek@neefusa.org if you're interested in sharing your story.

Upcoming EE Events & Celebrations

Geography Awareness Week - November 14-20

Geography Awareness Week (GAW) promotes the importance of geography education in the United States. This year's theme is 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

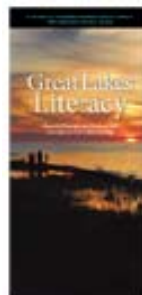
Ocean Literacy Essential Principles Brochure

The Ocean Literacy Essential Principles brochure was developed as part of a collaboration between nonprofit organizations, federal agencies and universities. It contains the definition of ocean literacy and the seven essential principles and key concepts of ocean literacy as well as a matrix mapping the principles and concepts to the National Science Education Standards Science Content Standards. The brochure is available free of charge for educators and is a great tool to use in preparation for EE Week activities focusing on Ocean Connections. [Learn more](#)



Great Lakes Literacy Essential Principles Brochure

The Great Lakes Literacy Essential Principles are an expansion of the development of the Ocean Literacy Essential Principles. The Great Lakes brochure was developed by Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE) Great Lakes with support from COSEE California and outlines eight essential principles of Great Lakes Literacy. [Learn more](#)



Once Upon A Tide

"Once Upon A Tide" is a short, educational film that was developed as part of the Healthy Oceans, Healthy Humans project of the Center for Health and the Global Environment at Harvard Medical School. The film was produced for schools, museums, aquariums and theaters to help people understand that all life on Earth, including our own, depends on the ocean. [Learn more](#)

Discover the Forest

Discover the Forest is a US Forest Service campaign designed to inspire kids ages 8-12 and their parents to reconnect with nature and experience it firsthand. The website provides an interactive map that allows visitors to find nearby forests and other resources, including games and activities during forest visits. [Learn more](#)

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

Student Contests and Awards

Oceans 2030: Youth Outlook - Submission deadline November 22

Oceans 2030: Youth Outlook is a multimedia (photo, video and art) contest for youth to share their vision for our oceans over the next 20 years. The contest is organized as part of the National Council for Science and the Environment's Our Changing Oceans Conference. Winning entries will be showcased at the upcoming conference in Washington, D.C. January 19-21 and published online in [Encyclopedia of Earth](#). Individuals or groups of up to five people between the ages of 15 and 24 are eligible to submit their works. [Learn more](#)

**President's Environmental Youth Awards - Application deadline
December 31**

Sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the President's Environmental Youth Awards program recognizes young people for projects which demonstrate their commitment to the environment. The program is available to individuals, classes and youth groups. Awards are presented in each EPA region, and one project from each region is presented with a national award. [Learn more](#)

**"Living on the Ocean Planet" Video Contest - Submission deadline
January 28**

The "Living on the Ocean Planet" Video contest, hosted by the National Ocean Science Bowl (NOSB), in partnership with the National Marine Educators Association, is designed to showcase student-developed original videos that educate the general public about marine technology and address the essential Essential Ocean Literacy Principles. Students in grades 9-12 may submit individually or in a team with a coach. Winners will receive a Flip Ultra HD video camera and will be invited to an all expenses paid trip to showcase their video at the 2011 NOSB Finals Competition in Galveston, Texas. [Learn more](#)

**Staples Urban Environment Challenge - Registration deadline January
31**

The Staples Foundation for Learning and [Earth Force](#) invite students in grades 5-9 to share their creative, youth-led solutions to climate change through a service learning project in their urban community. Projects must involve 10 or more students and 60 percent of the student population must qualify for free or reduced lunch. Students in the San Diego, Seattle, Las Vegas, Denver, Chicago, Boston, New York City, Charlotte, Atlanta and Dallas metro areas are eligible to compete. One winner in each region will receive a \$1,000 technology and supplies packages. Two runners up in each region will receive \$500 packages. Projects are due on Earth Day, April 22. [Learn more](#)

The Volvo Adventure Competition - Submission deadline January 31

The Volvo Adventure is an educational program for students between the ages of 13 and 16 working in teams to design and manage an environmental project in their local community. Projects can be submitted online. The best projects are selected for an all expenses-paid trip to Sweden, and the winning teams will receive \$10,000 for first place, \$6,000 for second place and \$4,000 for third place. [Learn more](#)

ExploraVision - Entry deadline February 2

ExploraVision is a science competition encouraging K-12 students to create and explore a vision of future technology by combining their imaginations with the tools of science. Contestants must form a team with a coach and submit a paper detailing their vision. The four teams that win first place will receive \$10,000 worth of savings bonds and the four teams that win second place will win \$5,000 worth of savings bonds. National finalists will win an expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. [Learn more](#)

NASA Waste Limitation Management and Recycling Design Challenge - Proposal deadline February 28



NASA is inviting students in grades 5-8 to participate in the second Waste Limitation Management and Recycling Design Challenge, a challenge that uses real-world scenarios to meet science and math content standards. Teams of up to six students will design a water recycling system for the unique environment of the moon. The first place team will receive an expenses paid trip to NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. [Learn more](#)

Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge - Entry deadline March 15

The Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge invites teams of K-12 students to identify an environmental issue and come up with a solution. Top prizes vary depending on grade level but include grant funds, savings bonds, scholarships, a Discovery adventure trip and prize packs of sustainable products. [Learn more](#)

2011 Thacher Environmental Research Contest - Entry deadline April 11

The 2011 Thacher Environmental Research Contest, sponsored by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, challenges high school students to conduct innovative research on our changing planet using the latest geospatial tools and data. The best projects will win \$2,000 for first place, \$1,000 for second place and \$500 for third place. Winners will also be featured in an [Encyclopedia of Earth](#) article. In addition to the student prizes, teachers of winning students or teams will receive a \$200 Amazon.com gift card. [Learn more](#)

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

Grants and Funding Opportunities

GreenWorks! Pollinator Garden Grants - Application deadline December 1

Project Learning Tree (PLT) and the USDA Forest Service are offering grants of up to \$1,000 to teachers and students participating in PollinatorLIVE: A Distance Learning Adventure. Participating teachers can apply for *GreenWorks!* funding to create pollinator gardens in their school or community. Applicants must be trained in PLT and be registered for and participate in PollinatorLIVE. [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](#)

Find Your Footprint Contest - Entry deadline December 3

The Find Your Footprint Contest from National Geographic invites K-6 teachers to involve their students in thinking of ways their school or classroom can make a difference by saving water, reducing waste or saving energy. Contestants must write a short proposal and illustrate it with either a poster, photograph, video or essay. The Grand Prize Winner's school will win classroom supplies and National Geographic products. [Learn more](#)

Disney Planet Challenge - Registration deadline December 17



Disney's Planet Challenge (DPC) is a project-based environmental competition for classrooms across the United States. DPC teaches kids about science and conservation while empowering them to make a positive impact on their communities and the planet. The competition offers tracks for grades 3-5 and 6-8. Individual teachers or a team of teachers can enroll. A state finalist will be awarded in each state, as well as a national grand prize winner and a second, third and fourth place winner for each track. Prizes include grants for the teacher, class and school, certificates of recognition, prize packages and a one-year NSTA membership. [Learn more](#)

Sylvan Dell Publishing School & Library Resource Grant - Application deadline December 31

Sylvan Dell Publishing offers award-winning picture books that integrate science, math and geography, as well as interactive eBook technology. The School & Library Resource Grant provides schools and libraries with one year of access to 55 Sylvan Dell eBooks, each with auto-flip, auto-read and selectable English and Spanish text and audio. [Learn more](#)

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

Professional Development

NOAA's Teacher at Sea Program - Application deadline November 30

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association's (NOAA) Teacher at Sea program provides a unique environment for learning and teaching by sending kindergarten through college-level teachers to sea aboard NOAA research and survey ships to work under the tutelage of scientists and crew. Teachers can then enrich their classroom curricula with the knowledge they have gained. [Learn more](#)



Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship - Application deadline December 31

Winners of the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship, or Einstein Fellows, are recognized each year for excellence in teaching science, mathematics or technology. Einstein Fellows spend a year in a professional staff position in Congress or a federal agency and receive a monthly stipend of \$6,000 along with a monthly \$1,000 living allowance. [Learn more](#)

ROLE Model Webinar Series - Online

The Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence Ocean Systems offers a series of Research-Based Online Learning Event Model webinars featuring ocean scientists and educators from across the country. The hour-long webinars are free and offer direct access to scientists as well as customizable, take-home resources. [Learn more](#)

NOAA Ocean Explorer Professional Development - Online

The NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and Research works in partnership with the College of Exploration to provide educators with online professional development. The online workshops allow educators from around the world to meet and view keynote addresses and ask questions of ocean explorers. Inquiry-based activities and other resources are also provided. [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](#)

Science Objects - Online

Science Objects, professional development from the National Science Teacher's Association, are two-hour, online, interactive inquiry-based content modules that help teachers better understand the science content they teach. Check out Ocean's Effect on Weather, Earth's Changing Surface, Plate Tectonics and more. Many are available for free. [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>.

