



National Environmental Education Week

A National Environmental Education Foundation Program

September 2010

www.EEWeek.org



Greetings!

Many of you are back to school this month and are already looking ahead to EE Week 2011. Mark your calendar -- EE Week is **April 10-16, 2011**. Curricula and other resources for EE Week 2011 will be available soon at EEWeek.org.

The lesson plans in our [Curricula Library](#) are available year-round, along with resource pages including our [Green Reading](#) lists, which are continually updated as new books, websites, films and other educational media are released.

In this newsletter, you will find numerous resources and opportunities for funding and professional development this fall. There are many ways to bring the environment into the classroom -- or vice-versa -- this school year and to use current environmental events, such as the Gulf oil spill, as an opportunity for cross-curricular study.

If you are planning to attend the [North American Association for Environmental Education \(NAAEE\) Annual Conference](#), September 29 - October 2 in Buffalo, New York, please drop by NEEF's booth in the exhibit hall to say hello. You are also welcome to join us on Friday, October 1 when we present *Be Water Wise: A Partnership Model for Water Conservation Education*.

Lastly, don't forget to take advantage of the incredible service-learning opportunity of National Public Lands Day on September 25. See below for more information.

Sincerely,

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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.

Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Contest

Your school can win a part of \$1 million in technology

Samsung and its technology partners are donating computers, flat screen TVs, camcorders, software and more to 50 schools around the country to give students the tools they need to pursue an interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education to create a more sustainable future. Challenge your 6-12th grade students to find an innovative solution to an environmental problem in your community and create a video showing how it can be done for a chance to win great gear for your school. **Applications are due by October 24.** NEEF is proud to be a partner of the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Contest. [Learn more](#)



Quick Links

[Register for EE Week 2010](#)

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Contact Us

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National Public Lands Day

September 25, 2010

[National Public Lands Day](#) (NPLD) -- the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance America's public lands -- is just a week away. It provides an invaluable service-learning opportunity for students this fall. NPLD engages a diverse audience of adult and youth volunteers, whether at a national park, nature center or school garden. Go online to [find an existing project](#) or [register your own](#).

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



Click the image below to watch the National Public Lands Day PSA with Philippe Cousteau on YouTube:

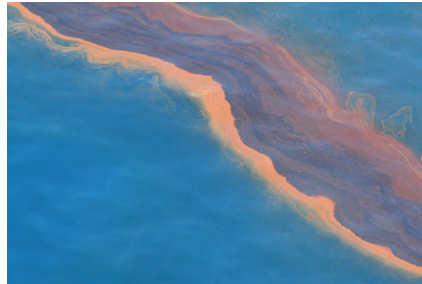


NPLD and EE Week are programs of the [National Environmental Education Foundation](#).

Oil Spill Resources and Curricula

Now Available at [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 in history. 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](#) 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 resources and curricula.



PollinatorLIVE

A Distance Learning Adventure

Join [PollinatorLIVE](#) on Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2010 for an electronic field trip to the Washington Youth Garden at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. for a series of webcasts exploring "Native Bees, Honey Bees, Gardening, and More." PollinatorLIVE will webcast from 11 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). [Register today!](#)



[PollinatorLIVE](#) hosts a series of live interactive webcasts, satellite field trips and web seminars about pollinators, gardening and conservation geared toward grades 4-8. Additionally, Project Learning Tree *GreenWorks!* is offering [Pollinator Garden Grants](#) to teachers who register for PollinatorLIVE through its *GreenWorks!* program. The maximum grant amount is \$500 and the deadline to apply is Dec. 3, 2010.

Upcoming EE Events & Celebrations

Worldwide Day of Play - September 25

Saturday, September 25th marks Nickelodeon's biggest Worldwide Day of Play ever and you can be part of the celebration. Be sure to tune out when First Lady Michelle Obama flips Nickelodeon's switch and all of the Kids & Family networks and sites go dark for three full hours to encourage kids to turn the television off, get outside and go play! Join thousands of schools, organizations and families and plan or find a local play day event in your area! NEEF is a proud partner of Nickelodeon's The Big Help. [Learn more](#)



NeighborWoods Month - October

National NeighborWoods Month is an annual community service campaign from the the Alliance for Community Trees (ACT). During the month of October, volunteer events are organized by local partners in cities across the country to educate and engage volunteers in tree planting and sustainability through education and media outreach. Go online to register an event, view the events calendar, apply for a grant, enter a photo contest and view pictures from around the country. [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 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

American Museum of Natural History Resources for Learning

Resources for Learning is a collection of activities, articles, evidence and analysis and more for educators, families, students and anyone interested in teaching or learning about science. There are 1,182 resources to choose from on topics including anthropology, astronomy, biology, earth science and paleontology. [Learn more](#)

Buy, Use, Toss?

"Buy, Use, Toss? A Closer Look at the Things We Buy" is an interdisciplinary unit from Facing the Future that includes 10 fully-planned lessons exploring the materials economy. Students learn about the five major steps of the materials economy: extraction, production, distribution, consumption and disposal. The unit is correlated to national science and social studies standards and is available for purchase or free download online. [Learn more](#)

EPA Polluted Runoff Education Resources

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offers a webpage with resources on polluted runoff, or non-point source pollution, that includes curricula and activities, information resources and centers and special programs. The resources include information about nonpoint sources of pollution as well as watersheds, water resources and fragile ecosystems including estuaries and wetlands. [Learn more](#)

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 **Oct. 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, Wash. [Learn more](#)

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

Student Contests and Awards

Floppy Flyer Challenge - Submission deadline September 30

The Floppy Flyer Challenge invites citizen scientists to create their very own flying invention based on nature's design of maple seed pods. The projects will help scientists studying how maple seed pods fly. Contestants can download the instructions and results chart for making a Floppy Flyer online and submit their results through an online survey, email, mail or online. [Learn more](#)

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

Earth Science Week, organized by the American Geological Institute, aims to help the public gain a better understanding and appreciation for the Earth Sciences and to encourage stewardship of the Earth. It will be held October 10-16. The Earth Science Week contests 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. [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 who are working in teams of 2-5 and actively involved in designing and managing 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 where they can win \$10,000 for first place, \$6,000 for second place and \$4,000 for third place. [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](#)



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

Grants and Funding Opportunities

Green Thumb Challenge - Application deadline September 30

The Green Thumb Challenge aims to connect kids with nature and its healthy benefits. The Challenge provides participants with beginner-friendly resources as well as fun activities and standards-based lessons linking the classroom to the garden. Participants have the opportunity to win a \$5,000 grant in recognition of their garden project. [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](#)

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 three 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](#)



State Farm Good Neighbor Service-Learning Grants - Application deadline October 15

State Farm is proud to team up with Youth Service America to offer grants of up to \$1,000 for youth-led service-learning initiatives in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, and in the Canadian provinces of Alberta, Ontario, and New Brunswick. Eligible programs will engage youth in service-learning. Eligible candidates include teachers, service-learning coordinators and students in a public school, or staff and youth in a community-based organization working with a public school. [Learn more](#)



Youth Garden Grants - Application deadline November 1

Youth Garden Grants are awarded to schools and community organizations with child-centered garden programs. Schools, youth groups, community centers, camps, clubs, treatment facilities, and intergenerational groups throughout the United States are eligible to apply. Applicants must plan to garden with at least 15 children between the ages of three and 18 years. Five programs will receive a \$1,000 gift card to Home Depot and National Gardening Association (NGA) and ninety-five programs will win a \$500 gift card to Home Depot and educational materials from NGA. [Learn more](#)

Disney's Planet Challenge Gulf Coast Clean-up Projects - Submission deadline November 1

DonorsChoose.org and Disney's Planet Challenge are teaming up to fund classroom projects aimed at helping to clean up or learn from the Gulf Coast oil spill. Full-time teachers of grades 3-8 at public schools in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas are eligible to apply. Hands-on projects focused on cleaning up the Gulf oil spill requesting \$650 or less in materials will be funded. [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](#)

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

Professional Development

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 and additional information about the Deepwater Horizon blowout event. The workshop will be free for all participants and will be available online. [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>.

