



National Environmental Education Week

A National Environmental Education Foundation Program

June 2011

www.EEWeek.org



Greetings!

For many schools, summer break is underway, giving teachers a much-needed respite but also the opportunity to hone their craft. Many professional development and funding opportunities, as well as new resources to explore, will be available throughout the summer.

Summer is also a great time for students and teachers alike to get outside and experience the beneficial effects of nature. Take some time to research local or national outdoor events this summer and visit us [online](#) to learn more about the health and educational benefits of spending time outdoors!

We invite you to participate in a brief [EE Week 2011 survey](#). Your feedback helps us to improve our work to meet educators' needs in environmental education. Learn more below.

Lastly, we are delighted to announce the winners of the [2011 EE Week Photo Blog Contest!](#) Read on to see their outstanding photos and learn about their inspiring commitment to environmental education.

Sincerely,

Jessica Culverhouse
Program Manager

Sarah Kozicki
Program Associate

Congratulations to the Winners of the 2011 Photo Blog Contest

The annual EE Week Photo Blog Contest is an opportunity for educators

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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.

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across the country to submit photos and stories of how they are bringing environmental education to students. Prize packages include resources that allow winners to continue engaging students in environmental learning and documenting the results.

First Place Winner: Terry Deal, River Critters

Fifth grade students at Evergreen Community Charter School in North Carolina collect, count and correctly identify macroinvertebrates from a local stream as part of their study of healthy ecosystems. [View the blog](#)



Second Place Winner: Laura Getz, Creek Stomp Bio Blitz

Students at Oaklandon School of Environmental Studies in Indiana spent a day in the nearby state park "creek stomping," hiking, climbing and investigating pond life. They also collected data about the diversity of life found in the local stream. [View the blog](#)



Third Place Winner: Karen Bolte, Building a Monarch Way Station

Fifth grade students at Brier Creek Elementary School in North Carolina built a monarch way station at the school, registered their station with Journey North and began tracking monarch butterflies. [View the blog](#)



Take Our 2011 Survey to Help Us Improve EE Week

Each year following EE Week, we solicit your input to gauge how well we are meeting our goal of providing educators with the resources they need to promote K-12 students' understanding of the environment.

Please take a few minutes to respond to our 2011 EE Week Participant



Call for Stories!

Don't forget to submit your stories of successful environmental education projects and programs to help inspire your peers and share ideas! Contact EEWeek@neefusa.org to get started.

Contact Us

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Evaluation Survey. Your responses provide valuable feedback to help us better support educators.

Thank you!

[Click here for the 2011 EE Week Participant Evaluation Survey](#)

Professional Development

Costa Rica Biodiversity Field Expedition - July 25 to August 2

Travel with EcoTeach to sample the splendor of Costa Rica's rich biodiversity and visit field researchers in action coast-to-coast. This is an itinerary tailored to the interests of educators and naturalists who are fed by talking with experts and experiencing first hand the exhilaration of discovery in nature. Total program cost is \$1,250, which includes a \$500 scholarship. EcoTeach covers a travel insurance policy. [Learn more](#)

BioEd Online

Developed by Baylor College of Medicine's Center for Education Outreach, BioEd Online offers K-12 educators professional development courses and content workshops to help build their background knowledge of genetics and life sciences. Teachers can complete the online learning at their own pace, and participants who pass a post-test receive a certificate for professional development hours completed. [Learn more](#)

Beyond Weather and the Water Cycle

This online professional development magazine focuses on preparing elementary teachers to teach climate science concepts while also integrating inquiry-based science and literary instruction. The current issue, "The Sun and Earth's Climate," provides lessons that demonstrates the link between reading comprehension strategy and science process skills. In addition, the magazine offers professional learning resources to help teachers increase their understanding of essential climate science principles. [Learn more](#)

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

Grants and Awards

Core Fulbright Scholar Program - Application deadline August 1

The competition for the 2012-2013 Fulbright U.S. Scholar Core Program is now open. The Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program offers teaching, research, or combined teaching/research awards in environmental studies. Faculty and professionals in environmental studies can also apply for "All Discipline" awards open to all fields. U.S. citizens with higher education degrees and teaching experience are eligible to apply. [Learn more](#)

Green Thumb Challenge - Application deadline September 30

The Green Thumb Challenge from the Green Education Foundation (GEF) aims to connect children with nature and the healthy benefits of gardening. GEF provides schools and youth groups with beginner-friendly resources to plant gardens of any size, in addition to fun activities and standards-based lessons linking the classroom to the garden. All participants have the opportunity to be awarded a \$5,000 grant in recognition of their garden project. [Learn more](#)

America's Home Energy Challenge - Submission deadline December 31

America's Home Energy Challenge is designed to teach students in grades 3-8 about energy, its use and the link between saving money and energy. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy and administered by the National Science Teachers Association, the Challenge aims to enhance and extend existing energy-focused programs, provide specific home energy-saving tips and make materials that support the learning of science and energy available to schools. Participating schools compete for more than \$200,000 in prizes distributed at the regional and national levels of the competition. [Learn more](#)

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

Student Opportunities

Lexus Eco Challenge - October 31

The Lexus Eco Challenge offers an opportunity for students in grades 6-12 to address environmental issues in three challenges: Land/Water, Air/Climate, and a Final Challenge. Teams have the opportunity to win \$10,000 in each of the first two challenges and up to \$30,000 in the final challenge. For each challenge, teams must choose a topic and use PowerPoint to illustrate an action plan. Participants are required to show how their ideas were implemented and also evaluate the results of their plan. [Learn more](#)

Do Something Growth Grants

Students who've created a sustainable community action project can apply for funding to help grow their project. Do Something Growth Grants are \$500 grants given out every week to young people under age 25 who have already developed sustainable projects and who could use funding to help expand the impact of the project. [Learn more](#)

Water Planet Challenge

EarthEcho's Water Planet Challenge encourages students to improve the health of the environment in their community and around the world through a service-learning project. The Challenge provides teachers with service-learning action guides and resources to provide their students with on subjects including water, energy efficiency and the Gulf oil spill. [Learn more](#)

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

EE Resources

Marine Debris App

Summer is finally here and millions of people worldwide will head to beaches and waterways for some fun in the sun. Help the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the University of Georgia keep beaches and waterways clear of marine debris by using their new Marine Debris Tracker app. The app can be downloaded for free on iPhones and Android phones and allows beachgoers to be part of the solution. [Learn more](#)

Environmental Literacy and Inquiry (ELI) Climate Change

Climate Change, developed by Environmental Literacy and Inquiry, is a technology-supported middle school science inquiry curriculum. Students use geospatial information technology tools, web-based tools and inquiry-based lab activities to investigate important climate change topics. Climate Change is aligned to the Essential Principles of Climate Literacy in addition to national science and environmental education standards. [Learn more](#)

The EcoTipping Points Project

The EcoTipping Points Project tells the story of how people can take simple action to turn environmental decline around to restoration. A section of the website dedicated to teachers provides lesson plans, instructional materials and school-wide projects that help teachers use models of success to teach skills, spread hope and inspire proactive reaction to environmental crises. [Learn more](#)

Power Up

Power Up, developed by IBM and the TryScience project team at the New York Hall of Science is an exciting, 3-D, action-strategy game that allows students to learn about engineering and science principles by saving the imaginary planet Helios from ecological devastation. Students must carry out missions to supply solar, wind and water power to the planet. The game is compatible with both Windows and Mac operating systems and is accompanied by lesson plans on energy. [Learn more](#)

For more resources and classroom materials, 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>