



# National Environmental Education Week

A National Environmental Education Foundation Program

March 2011

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



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## Greetings!

On March 11, a magnitude 8.9 earthquake caused a tsunami to hit the eastern shore of Japan. Schools around the country and across the globe are addressing students' questions about the event, and [Earth Gauge](#) has created a fact sheet to help. [Download the fact sheet.](#)

According to meteorologists, the first day of Spring was March 1, but the Spring Equinox is on March 20. Regardless of the official date, the beginning of Spring means EE Week is just a month away! Tell us how you plan to celebrate EE Week this year by registering at [EEWeek.org](http://EEWeek.org).

Still not sure how to participate? Read below and check out [EEWeek.org](http://EEWeek.org) for resources and ideas on how to incorporate environmental education into your teaching. And be sure to take advantage of the perks of EE Week registration this year, including discounts, giveaways and access to our free [Educator Webinars](#).

Have you been engaging students in environmental learning all year? Submit a success story to us at [eeweek@neefusa.org](mailto:eeweek@neefusa.org), and your school or organization may be featured online or in an upcoming e-newsletter.

Sincerely,

Jessica Culverhouse  
Program Manager

Sarah Kozicki  
Program Associate

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### Our Program

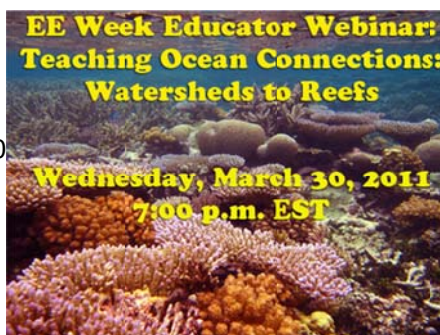
National Environmental Education (EE) Week is the largest organized environmental education event in the United States.

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

## EE Week Educator Webinar: Teaching Ocean Connections: Watersheds to Reefs

Wednesday, March 30, 2011 at 7 p.m. EDT

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. Water in every stream or river on the planet 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.



Registered 2011 [National Environmental Education Week](#) (EE Week) participants are invited to join us for an educator webinar -- **Teaching Ocean Connections: Watersheds to Reefs** -- on **Wednesday, March 30, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. EDT**. Take advantage of this opportunity to learn from and interact with experts Rob Ferguson, Paulo Maurin and Cathy Sakas from the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) (NOAA), who will share their knowledge and ideas for compelling classroom activities on watersheds and introduce participants to NOAA's [Rivers to Reefs Program](#).

[Register](#) for EE Week to participate in this free online professional development experience. Registered participants will receive webinar login information via email prior to the webinar.

[Learn more](#)

### Why Register for EE Week?

Registered EE Week participants receive many exciting perks

When you register for EE Week, you join a national network of educators dedicated to improving the environmental literacy of students. You also receive a certificate of participation and are eligible to participate in our free educator webinars. In addition, EE Week participants qualify for special discounts and offers from our partners.

[The Video Project](#) offers registered EE Week participants a **25 percent discount** through April 30 on any title in their collection of educational media and documentary programming, including several titles on marine science and ocean issues.



#### Quick Links

[Register for EE Week 2011](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Success Stories](#)

[More On Us](#)

#### Contact Us

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#### 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](mailto:EEWeek@neefusa.org) to get started.

[Green Teacher](#) magazine will provide registered EE Week participants a **free** digital copy of their spring marine education issue in late **April**.



**Green Teacher**

[Nature-Watch](#) offers registered EE Week participants a **10 percent discount** through May 1 on any order through their online store, which offers educational nature products and craft activity kits designed to help children learn about nature.



[Register today!](#)

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## School Spotlight

### Manzo Elementary School Reconciles with Ecology

In Tucson, Ariz., Manzo Elementary School is achieving notable success for designing a curriculum around reconciliation ecology. Reconciliation ecology is the science of inventing and establishing new habitats to conserve species diversity in places people occupy. At Manzo Elementary, students participate in hands-on activities that explore horticulture and reconciliation ecology. The results of these activities produce an added aesthetic charm to the school and neighboring community while simultaneously helping the surrounding environment and native species.



*Manzo Elementary students working in their native Sonoran Desert Biome*

[Read more](#)

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## EE Resources

### PollinatorLIVE "Nature's Partners: Pollinators, Plants and People" - April 13, 11:00 a.m. EDT

Join PollinatorLIVE for an electronic field trip to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center to learn about pollination, plant-insect interactions, how to study pollinators, their importance to the food supply and what people can do to help. This free, interactive program will be broadcast and webcast live in English at 11:00 a.m. EDT and in Spanish at 1:00 p.m. EST on April 13. [Learn more](#)

### World Oceans Day 2011: Youth - June 8

June 8th of every year marks the official, United Nations-recognized celebration of World Oceans Day, and hundreds of aquariums, zoos, museums, conservation organizations and thousands of individuals around the world will participate in educational events. This year, celebrations will draw attention to the importance of getting young people inspired to protect the ocean as part of the 2011 theme: Youth: the Next Wave for Change. [Learn more](#)

### Green Teacher: From Ecological Footprints to Thoughtprints

In the Winter issue of Green Teacher, Stephen Goobie challenges readers to go beyond ecological footprints and also consider "thoughtprints." Readers will find articles about creating eco-poetry, climate change treasure hunts and plastic bottle greenhouses. Other important contributions include a fun way to train outdoor educators, using unconventional dramatic forms in environmental programs, converting a public school to student-led outdoor learning and using Albert Schweitzer's teachings to promote environmental ethics to newcomers. [Order this issue online](#)



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

## Student Opportunities

### 2011 Craig Tufts Educational Award - Nomination deadline March 31

The Craig Tufts Educational Scholarship Award is given annually to a young person between the ages of 8 and 18 to attend a week-long, summer outdoor educational adventure camp with a parent or guardian. The applicant must submit an original essay about his or her favorite outdoor activity. [Learn more](#)

### Green Your School Challenge - Submission deadline April 1

HP and DoSomething.org are challenging schools to help protect the environment and fight climate change by registering for the Green Your School challenge. Schools with the most people involved, best innovation and use of technology and biggest impact on their school community will win a \$1,000 grant and an HP Pavilion DM1 laptop. One grand prize winner will receive a \$5,000 grant and five HP Pavilion DM1 laptops. [Learn more](#)

### **Ocean Matters Summer Caribbean Marine Biology Program -**

Applications due April 8

High school students aged 15 and above who are interested in marine science and conservation are invited to apply for the Ocean Matters Summer Caribbean Marine Biology Program, a three-week intensive summer marine biology program in Grand Cayman from July 7-28. Award announcements will be made on Earth Day, April 22. [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](#)

### **NOAA 2011 Marine Debris Art Contest - Entry deadline April 16**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Debris Program invites students in grades K-8 from all U.S. states and territories to enter the "Keep the Sea Free of Debris" 2011 art contest. Students must submit a piece of artwork and a description detailing how they are affected by marine debris and what they can do about it. [Learn more](#)

### **2011 Earth Day Photo & Essay Contest - Entry deadline May 13**

The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies invites students in grades 5-8 across the country to celebrate Earth Day by taking a photograph of something changing in their local environment. The photo must be accompanied by an essay describing the change and its potential impacts on the community. The top three winners will receive a digital camera, digital photo frame and a digital photo keychain, respectively. [Learn more](#)

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

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## **Grants and Awards**

### **EPA Environmental Education Grants - Application deadline May 2**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is accepting grant applications for \$1.9 million in funding for environmental education projects and programs that promote environmental stewardship and help develop knowledgeable and responsible students, teachers and citizens. EPA expects to award at least 20 grants nationwide ranging between \$15,000 and \$100,000. EPA will be hosting two conference calls for potential applicants who want to learn more about the application process on March 21 and April 6. [Learn more](#)

### **Grants for Education in Microbial Science - Application deadline May 2**

The Center for Microbial Oceanography: Research and Education, based at the University of Hawaii, awards grants of up to \$1,500 to foster awareness in microbial science. Funds can be used for any project related to microbial science. Any educator within the United States may apply for

one of these grants, but preference will be given to public school teachers, nonprofit organizations and first-time applicants. [Learn more](#)

### **AAAS Leadership in Science Education Prize for High School Teachers** - Application deadline May 27

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Leadership in Science Education Prize for High School Teachers recognizes high school science teachers for the development and implementation of innovative methods for teaching and encouraging the next generation of scientists. Teachers must be currently employed as a science instructor in a public or private school for grades 9-12 in the United States or its territories. Teachers must be nominated by an administrator within their school, district or state. The winner will receive a \$1,000 cash prize to support the development and continuation of the strategy, activity or program. Additionally, an announcement will be published in the AAAS website and in *Science* magazine and the winner will receive a one-year institutional subscription to *Science* magazine. [Learn more](#)

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

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## **Professional Development**

### **Ocean Giants: Sharks Webinar** - March 29, 8:00 p.m. EST

Educators are invited to participate in Wildlife Conservation Society's (WCS) upcoming webinar, Ocean Giants: Sharks, which will introduce participants to wildlife science, research and conservation. Participants will discover WCS field work, listen to conservation stories from field researchers and explore interesting ways to bring these topics to students. [Learn more](#)

### **Green Teacher's Free Webinars**

Green Teacher Magazine offers a series of one hour webinars for youth educators on a variety of topics, including "School Grounds for Healthy Play and Learning," "Plugged In; But Tuned Out: The Need to Reconnect with Nature," "Innovative Curriculum Design for Sustainability" and "Using the Environment as a Context for Learning in Standards-Based Education Systems," which will feature Gerry Lieberman, an internationally-recognized authority on school improvement using natural and community surroundings as interdisciplinary contexts for education. The webinars begin at 7:30 p.m. Eastern. [Learn more](#)



### **COSEE Spring 2011 ROLE Model Webinar Series**

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

### **NOAA 2011 Onsite Professional Development Workshops**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Ocean Exploration and Research announces its spring 2011 onsite

professional development workshop schedule at Alliance Partner sites, including aquariums and marine centers, across the country. [Learn more](#)

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

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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>.

