



# National Environmental Education Week

A National Environmental Education Foundation Program

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



## In This Issue

[National Public Lands Day](#)

[Teacher Spotlight](#)

[EE Programs and Resources](#)

[Funding Resources](#)

[Professional Development](#)

## Our Program

National Environmental Education (EE) Week is the largest organized environmental education event in the United States. EE Week promotes understanding and protection of the natural world by actively engaging K-12th grade students and educators in an inspired week of environmental learning before Earth Day.

## Quick Links

[Register for EE Week 2010](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Success Stories](#)

[More On Us](#)

## Contact Us

## Greetings!

We certainly hope you've had a restful and enjoyable summer. This time of year, educators and students are preparing for a return to the classroom, and we are here to help! This month's newsletter features tons of new free and low-cost EE resources as well as many funding opportunities for educators and schools.

National EE Week will be April 11-17, 2010. Further details will be released at [EEWeek.org](http://EEWeek.org) and in upcoming e-newsletters. Be sure to submit a new registration form each year you wish to participate in EE Week. [Register](#) your school or organization today!

Sincerely,

Jessica Stelzner Culverhouse  
National EE Week Coordinator

## National Public Lands Day

Saturday, September 26, 2009

[National Public Lands Day](#) is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands Americans enjoy.

This September, educators and students around the country are participating in National Public Lands Day by hosting clean-ups, maintaining bridges and trails, improving wildlife habitats, removing invasive species, and engaging in many other activities to protect and conserve public lands. Remember: your public school grounds are also public lands!

Visit [www.publiclandsday.org](http://www.publiclandsday.org) to register a site or locate a volunteer event near you, and be sure to check out the list of [educational resources](#).

Jessica Culverhouse  
EE Week Coordinator  
(202) 261-6484

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



## Teacher Spotlight: Eric Vincent, Holy Spirit Catholic School

**Great Falls, Mont.**

Working with a group of 7th graders, Eric Vincent developed a program that connects middle and high school students with professionals that work in the conservation field. The Montana Environmental Education for Kids (MEEK) program focuses on restoring endangered riparian and wetland sites. Vincent and his team of students have involved over 250 young people in "Riparian Repair Teams" throughout the state of Montana. The teams adopt designated wetland and riparian sites in their communities and follow a prescribed rehabilitation process developed by experts. Through Vincent's efforts, students across Montana have positively affected the environment, gained firsthand knowledge of proper conservation procedures and developed a greater appreciation of natural surroundings.

Has Eric's story inspired you involve your students in restoring damaged riparian and wetland sites near your school? Check out [Holding onto the Green Zone: A Youth Program for the Study and Stewardship of Community Riparian Areas](#), a joint project of the Bureau of Land Management, the University of Wisconsin-Extension and the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service.

## EE Programs and Resources

### Sylvan Dell E-Books

View new Sylvan Dell nature and environment-themed e-books online free through October 31. Many of the books are appropriate for elementary school students and all are available in both English and Spanish. [Learn more](#)

### Earth Science Week Toolkits Now Available

Earth Science Week is October 11-17, 2009. The 2009 Earth Science Week Toolkit is now available. The kit includes an activity calendar, posters, resources, activities, a field notebook and student handouts. The materials cover a range of earth science topics including National Parks, GIS technology, volcanoes and the ecological impacts of climate change. Visit [EarthSciWeek.org](http://EarthSciWeek.org) for ordering information.

### EPA Water Quality Video Contest Winners Announced

In March 2009, EPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds launched a Water Quality Video Contest to inspire environmental stewardship and educate the public on ways individuals can improve water quality in their community. They received over 250 submissions and have

recently announced the two winners of the contest. [View the winning videos and 22 honorable mentions.](#)

### **Global Water Supply Curriculum**

Water.org provides curriculum materials on the global water supply. Aligned with national standards, lesson plans and mini-units are available for elementary, middle and high school levels. Stand-alone lesson plans are part of larger units that cover a broad scope of subjects including English, science and technology and social sciences including geography, civics and economics. Classroom activities include poetry seminars, vocabulary-building worksheets and science and math lessons about potable water availability. Download the materials at [Water.org](#).

### **Earth Matters: Studies for Our Global Future**

Earth Matters is a Windows/Mac compatible CD-ROM that includes 32 readings and 42 activities that teach secondary students about the complexities of and relationships between population pressures, climate change, natural resource use, wildlife endangerment, distribution of wealth and food, urbanization, public health, gender equity and economic progress. Each unit also contains a glossary and lists of suggested books and websites for further research. The CD-ROM can be purchased online from [Population Connection](#).

### **Ecological Impacts of Climate Change**

This 28-page booklet is based on *Ecological Impacts of Climate Change* (2009), a report by an independent panel of experts convened by the National Research Council. It explains general themes about the ecological consequences of climate change and identifies examples of ecological changes across the United States. Download the booklet from the [National Academies](#).

**For more classroom resources, visit the [Curricula Library](#) and [General EE Resources](#) pages on our Web site.**

## **Funding Resources**

### **NOAA's Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program - Application deadlines Fall 2009**

NOAA B-WET is an environmental education program that promotes locally relevant, experiential learning in the K-12 environment. The primary delivery of B-WET is through competitive funding that promotes Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs). B-WET applicants are encouraged to partner with local NOAA entities. Application deadlines vary by region. [Learn more](#)

### **Foundation for Rural Education and Development Technology Grants - Application deadline Sept. 14**

The Technology Grants for Rural Schools program was created to help meet the growing need for innovative technology in the classroom. The program strives to help public schools in rural areas bring modern

computers to every classroom, connect schools to the information superhighway and make sure that effective and engaging software and online resources are an integral part of the school curriculum. Public K-12 schools in the service area of an OPASTCO telephone company are eligible to apply. In 2008, \$50,000 in Technology Grants was awarded to public schools. [Learn more](#)

#### **Wal-Mart Foundation State Giving Program - Submission deadline Sept. 18**

Through the State Giving Program, the Wal-Mart Foundation seeks to support programs that align with their mission to create opportunities so people can live better. The State Giving Program strives to award grants that have a long-lasting, positive impact within a state or region. The Foundation has four areas of focus: Education, Workforce Development/Economic Opportunity, Health & Wellness and Environmental Sustainability. The minimum amount for State Giving Program grants is \$25,000. There is no maximum amount. [Learn more](#)

#### **Earth Day Network Grant Program - Application deadline Sept. 18**

Earth Day Network (EDN) is looking for projects that characterize the range and diversity of the environmental movement and are representative of the myriad of ways to green a school -- from bricks-and-mortar and schoolyard improvements to implementing environmental education, performing civic action and achieving policy reform. Members of EDN's Educators' Network are eligible to receive from \$500 to \$3,500 in support and funding. [Learn more](#)

#### **State Farm Service-Learning Grants - Application deadline Oct. 2**

The State Farm Youth Advisory Board is currently funding service-learning projects between \$25,000 and \$100,000 that address the root cause of the following issue areas: Driver's Safety, Access to Higher Education/Closing the Achievement Gap, Financial Literacy, Natural & Societal Disaster Preparedness and Environmental Responsibility. All nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations are eligible to apply, as well as Canadian charitable organizations, educational institutions and governmental entities. [Learn more](#)

#### **Project Learning Tree (PLT) Green Works! Grants - Application deadline Oct. 31**

*GreenWorks!* grants engage PLT educators and their students with their local community in "learning-by-doing" environmental projects. Student leadership, service-learning and community participation are the cornerstones to *GreenWorks!* projects. These grassroots action projects enable schools and youth organizations across the country to make a positive impact on their communities. PLT educators are eligible for grants of \$250 to \$5,000. [Learn more](#)

#### **Take Education on the Road Field Trip Grants - Application deadline Nov. 3**

The Target Field Trip Grants program encourages educators to take education on the road by offering 5,000 grants of up to \$800 each for the upcoming school year. This one-of-a-kind grant program enables students to explore the world outside the classroom by helping fund field trips to educational destinations. Education professionals employed by an accredited K-12 public, private or charter school in the United States are

eligible to apply. [Learn more](#)

For more grants and awards, visit the [Funding Resources](#) page on our Web site.

## Professional Development

### Energy Efficiency Strategies for Schools Webinar Series

In challenging financial times, school districts throughout the country are looking for ways to make ends meet without eliminating the programs and services teachers and students depend on. By improving the energy efficiency of schools, districts can cut costs without cutting corners. Register today for the U.S. Green Building Council's "Energy Efficiency Strategies for Schools" Webinar Series. Webinars were developed through a partnership with Energy Star and the U.S. Department of Energy. [Learn more](#)

### Serve on the National Environmental Education Advisory Council - Nomination deadline Aug. 24

The National Environmental Education Advisory Council is comprised of representatives from organizations who provide EPA with advice on environmental education. The Council assists EPA in understanding the needs of schools, universities, state departments and educational organizations. Three vacancies are currently open including one primary or secondary educator. Although there are currently only three vacancies, the council is always seeking qualified candidates for all of the sectors represented on the Council. [Learn more](#)

### International Antarctic Treaty Expedition - Entry deadline Sept. 4

One teacher or professor will win a free trip to Antarctica aboard the 2041 International Antarctic Treaty Expedition (IATE) with Robert Swan November 16-30, 2009. The Teacher's Package includes: all activities and meals in Antarctica, round-trip airfare, pick-up and drop-off, a signed copy of Antarctica 2041 and carbon offsets to cover the winner's trip-related emissions. [Learn more](#)

### Conference on Best Practices in Education for Sustainable Development - Application deadline Sept. 14, 2009

Fulbright Japan will host a conference Nov. 1-6, 2009 in Portland, Ore. on Best Practices in ESD (Education for Sustainable Development). Designed to bring together innovative teachers from Japan and the United States, representing K-12 schools in each country with focused ESD-oriented projects or programs, the bi-nationally fully-funded conference will entail presentations, workshops and site visits to Portland area ESD-focused schools. [Learn more](#)

For more opportunities, visit the [Professional Development](#) page on our Web site.



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>.

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