



# National Environmental Education Week

A National Environmental Education Foundation Program

April 1, 2009

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



## Greetings!

With less than two weeks until the start of National Environmental Education Week, we are happy to report that this year's program will be the largest since EE Week's inception in 2005. With thousands of educators and millions of students taking part nationwide, EE Week is an inspired week of environmental learning in preparation for Earth Day. This year, EE Week will *Be Water Wise!* by providing lesson plans and activities on the topics of water conservation and water quality. Visit [www.eeweek.org](http://www.eeweek.org) to explore the resources.

If you have not already done so, register your school or organization today for National EE Week, April 12-18, 2009, by visiting [www.eeweek.org/register](http://www.eeweek.org/register). Certificates are provided to recognize registered educators and students. In addition, our generous partners at Acorn Naturalists, providers of science and nature resources for the trail and classroom, are providing EE Week registrants \$10 off of a purchase!

Registering your school or organization connects you with a national network of educators dedicated to increasing environmental literacy among K-12 students. Our record registration in 2009 reflects the growing importance and relevance of environmental education.

Please note that you must complete a registration for your school or organization each year you wish to participate in EE Week. To verify whether you are registered for 2009, view our partners list at [www.eeweek.org/partners](http://www.eeweek.org/partners). If you have not yet registered for EE Week 2009, it's not too late! Register today!

Sincerely,

Jessica Culverhouse  
National Environmental Education Week Coordinator

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### 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 creating a full week of environmentally-themed lessons and activities in K-12

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## EE Week Partner Spotlight

### Miami-Dade County Public Schools - Be Water Wise Miami

The National Environmental Education Foundation, in partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the City of Miami, will host a signature event in Miami this April. Be Water Wise Miami will engage students from 14 selected schools in analyzing water use at home and at school through a series of interdisciplinary activities and lessons. Through this initiative, students and community members will develop an increased awareness of the need to conserve this precious resource and they will gain the knowledge and tools needed to improve water conservation in their community, saving water and money.

To learn more about this event and download materials that any school may use to analyze water use and improve conservation, visit [www.eeweek.org/water\\_wise/miami](http://www.eeweek.org/water_wise/miami).

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## Featured Resources

### Water Lessons and Activities developed by Earth Day Network

[Earth Day Network](#), founded by the organizers of the first Earth Day in 1970, works through a global network to promote a healthy, sustainable environment for all people. A partner of EE Week, Earth Day Network has developed series of water-themed lesson plans and activities in support of this year's theme: *Be Water Wise!* These activities incorporate art, math, science and social studies skills to help students understand issues including water conservation, water scarcity, global access to water, the connection between water and climate change and other important topics. Visit [EE Week's Curricula Library](#) to download the activities, and visit Earth Day Network online for more [education resources](#) and to learn about the [history of Earth Day](#).



**My Wonderful World**  
A National Geographic-led campaign



### EE Week Guest Blogger Series on My Wonderful World

[My Wonderful World](#) is a National Geographic-led campaign to expand geographic learning in school, at home and in communities. In support of EE Week's *Be Water Wise!* theme, the *My Wonderful World* Blog published guest blogs written by EE Week teachers on the water conservation and water quality projects they have undertaken with their students. [Read the blog](#) to get some inspired ideas for activities to engage your students.

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## EE Programs and Resources

### No Child Left Inside Days - April 2009

During No Child Left Inside Days this April, students, teachers and environmental educators set aside time to go outside and take part in special activities that will increase understanding and appreciation of the natural world. Activities can be one class period, one day, one week or longer. [Learn more](#)

### IGES Earth Day Photo Contest - Entry deadline: May 9, 2009

Students in grades 5-8 are invited to participate in the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

classrooms, nature centers, zoos, museums, and aquariums.

### Contact Us

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(IGES) Earth Day Photo Contest. To participate, students submit photographs of changes in the local environment and write a scientific explanation of the change they have observed. Prizes include a digital camera, digital photo frame, and digital photo key chain in addition to recognition on the IGES website. [Learn more](#)

#### **Celebrate Endangered Species Day - May 15, 2009**

Endangered Species Day is a national celebration of America's commitment to protecting our country's wildlife, fish and plants on the brink of extinction. Visit the website for the Endangered Species Day toolkit, educational materials, and information on the student poster contest. [Learn more](#)

#### **Planet Connect**

Planet Connect, a component of the National Environmental Education Foundation's Classroom Earth initiative, is an online social network where high school students can learn about current environmental issues, funding opportunities, green colleges and environmental careers. Students can also share and exchange ideas about how they are playing a critical role in solving today's environmental issues. [Visit Planet Connect](#)

#### **EstuaryLive**

*EstuaryLive* is an annual, free, live and interactive field trip through our nation's estuaries. Participants have an opportunity to submit questions directly to field trip leaders during the broadcast, many of which are answered live. This year's program will feature six 30-minute segments broadcasting live from three of NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserves, including a discussion of the impacts of global climate change on our coastal ecosystems. [Learn more](#)

**For more classroom resources, be sure to visit the [General EE Resources](#) page and the [Curricula Library](#) on our website.**

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## **Funding Resources**

#### **EPA Water Quality Video Contest - Entry deadline: April 22, 2009**

The U.S. EPA Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds video contest engages the public on water quality issues and inspires stewardship of the nation's waters. Videos are being accepted on a wide variety of topics and should convey easy, low-cost ways to improve and protect the nation's waters. One winner will be chosen for a short, 30- or 60-second video that is usable as a public service announcement, and another will be chosen for a longer one- to three-minute video. Each winner will receive a \$2,500 cash award. The videos will be featured on EPA's website. [Learn more](#)

#### **A&WMA High School Essay Contest - Entry deadline: April 22, 2009**

The Air & Waste Management Association's (A&WMA) 2009 High School Essay Contest, "Driving Environmental Progress: What Can Students Do?" gives students in grades 9-12 the chance to share their thoughts on environmental issues and to win prizes. To participate, students write essays describing the role that young people can play in driving environmental progress. The first place winner will receive \$400 and may have a portion of his or her essay published in A&WMA's monthly magazine. All entrants will receive certificates of participation. [Learn more](#)

#### **Student Essay Contest: Win A Hybrid School Bus - Entry deadline: April 30, 2009**

IC Bus is offering a free hybrid school bus to the winning school in a student essay contest on "green" practices at school. In addition, the winning student will receive a \$5,000 scholarship and the faculty sponsor gets \$3,000 for educational materials. K-12 students are invited to submit 500-word essays describing their school's efforts to "go green." Essays will be judged on demonstration of commitment to environmentally conscious practices, demonstration of commitment to environmentally friendly transportation and creativity. [Learn more](#)

### RBC Water Stewardship Projects

The RBC Blue Water Project™ was established to help foster a culture of water stewardship around the world. This year the project will provide \$100,000 for water stewardship projects in U.S. schools. To apply for RBC Blue Water Project Funding, set up an account online at [www.DonorsChoose.org](http://www.DonorsChoose.org) and submit project requests for tools and materials that will help your students learn about clean water and watersheds.

For more grants and awards, be sure to visit the [Funding Resources](#) page on our website!

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## Professional Development

### *TogetherGreen Fellowships* - Application deadline: April 15, 2009

Help lead the conservation actions needed to shape a greener, healthier future. Apply to become a TogetherGreen Fellow. Each year, 40 new Fellows will get broad-based training, assistance and opportunities to help them conduct their own innovative, results-oriented conservation projects, serve as conservation role models, inspire and engage diverse audiences and communities, build leadership skills and connect with other U.S. and international conservation leaders. Applicants may be budding volunteer leaders or mid-career environmental professionals. They must have a passion for conservation, the desire to learn and grow and a commitment to making a difference. [Learn more](#)

### Chesapeake Classrooms

Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Chesapeake Classrooms focuses on methods to incorporate environmental education into the core subject areas of reading, math, science and social studies. Educators can earn graduate or recertification credits by participating in five-day immersion courses held throughout the summer. Additional application skills and recertification credits can be earned by attending our workshop series during the school year. Summer 2009 courses include Islands in the Bay and Explorations of Captain John Smith. Chesapeake Classrooms is supported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Geographic Society, and the Chesapeake Bay Trust. [Learn more](#)

For more professional development opportunities, be sure to visit the [Professional Development](#) page on our website!

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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<sup>(t)</sup> 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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