



The (P)inon (E)ducation (N)ewsletter

“The P.E.N. is mightier than the sword”

The mission of Sandia Mountain Natural History Center (SMNHC) is to work within New Mexico communities to develop an ecologically literate citizenry.

Vol. 1, Issue 1: Winter 2008 — snow, snow, snow



Ecology Teaching Tip

Abert Squirrels' dark color and bushy tail helps them stay warm in winter: the dark fur absorbs heat when they bask in the sun, and bushy tails insu-



Activity: Water, Where Are You?

Time: Variable

Materials: 1 liter water bottle

Procedure: 1. Fill the bottle to the 1 liter mark. Tell students this represents all the water in the world. 2. Tell students only 3% is freshwater. Measure this amount— 30ml (30 eyedroppers-full) of water into another container. Ask students if all this freshwater is usable (No). 3. 70% of this water is in icecaps and glaciers. (The actual number is 68.7%.) Have the students figure out how much freshwater should be left in the bottle. 30mL— (70% of 30 mL = 21 mL) = 9 mL. This represents

0.9% of the world's water. Take all but 9 mL out of the bottle. 4. Is all this water usable? -No, not even all of this is usable: some is groundwater too difficult or dangerous to reach, some is polluted....

Conclusion: As our population grows, Our need for water grows with it. How can we help? Talk about water conservation: shut off water when brushing teeth, take short showers, don't water the yard mid-day, xeriscape, use rain-water. Scientists are also developing some new ways of getting water we couldn't access before.

Upcoming Workshops at SMNHC

Project WILD / Aquatic WILD NM Department of Game & Fish / SMNHC

Saturday, February 21st, 9:00-4:00 PM

Where: SMNHC

Who: K-12 Teachers and Environmental Educators

What: Project WILD is a K-12 interdisciplinary ecology, conservation and environmental education program focusing on wildlife. Science, literacy and outdoor classroom emphasis.

Materials: Participants receive two award-winning Project WILD activity guides (revised 2008 edition includes technology component!)

Project Learning Tree (PLT) EEANM / US Forest Service / SMNHC

Saturday, March 14th, 9:30-4:30 PM

Where: NM Museum of Natural History & Science

Who: Pre-K-8 Teachers and others

What: Project Learning Tree (PLT) Pre-K-8: One of the leading environmental education programs in the country.

Materials: Participants receive the PLT Guide, including 96 ecology activities designed for all subject areas, settings, and learning styles.

Visit www.plt.org or www.eeanm.org for more information.

Wild Sandias! Short Course Sandia Mountain Natural History Center

Saturday, April 18th, 9:30-3:00PM

Where: Sandia Mountain Natural History Center

Who: All teachers and pre-teachers (also open to non-teachers); many activities aimed at a 5th grade audience

What: Experience the Sandias and discover ways to integrate the multi-dimensional experience of nature into your teaching! Hike with us and learn hands-on activities and fascinating facts about local plants and animals to engage your students and demonstrate ecology principles. Local ecosystems help students learn and retain ecological principals. Get tips on using the outdoors as a teaching tool, even your schoolyard.

Materials: Participants receive SMNHC's ecology activity guide (curricula) CDs and other materials.

Please register by the Tuesday before the workshop.

All workshops have a \$10 materials fee.

Teacher Grants

Audubon society offers 3 grants:

Two grants due 1/31/09:

1. For teaching resources: \$250
2. For Institute of Desert Ecology attendance fee

One grant continuously accepting applications (Youth scholarships)

For more information visit <http://newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas/> or e-mail helenm@yahoo.com

Grant Wrangler®: is a free listing service specifically for educator grants and awards: visit <http://www.grantwrangler.com/index.html>

The Sandia Mountain Natural History Center (SMNHC) is a natural history and environmental education facility located on the east side of the Sandia Mountains in Cedar Crest, New Mexico. The SMNHC is owned by Albuquerque Public Schools and operated by the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science.



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