



# National Environmental Education Week

A National Environmental Education Foundation Program

October 2009

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## Greetings!

Happy Earth Science Week! Visit [www.earthsciweek.org](http://www.earthsciweek.org) for many great activities and resources to celebrate Earth Science Week 2009: Understanding Climate. For more lesson plan ideas for Earth Science Week, you can visit EE Week's Curricula Library page on [Climate Change](#).

Please see the Funding Resources section of this newsletter for information on a grant program for high school students offered by [Planet Connect](#), one of EE Week's sister programs at the National Environmental Education Foundation. The application deadline is quickly approaching!

Mark your calendar: **National EE Week is April 11-17, 2010!** Registered schools and organizations will receive certificates of participation, access to online tools and resources, opportunities to network with others working to integrate environmental education and discounts and special offers for educational materials. [Register](#) to participate in EE Week today!

Sincerely,

Jessica Stelzner Culverhouse

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

### Quick Links

[Register for EE Week 2010](#)

[FAQs](#)

## PS 166's Big Green Halloween

New York, N.Y.

This month, PS 166 in New York, N.Y. will put a "green" twist on its 11th annual Fall Festival. In addition to the traditional carnival-style rides, Haunted House and family entertainment, the Big Green Halloween event will emphasize environmental responsibility with composting demonstrations and crafts involving textile recycling. Fresh lemonade and

produce will be provided by a local organic farm and volunteers from the local high school will assist with the event's recycling and composting efforts.

Mason Wood, a parent leading the event planning committee, said, "Our goal is to end the day having produced as little waste as possible, while still meeting the many expectations people have for a school fair."

Learn more about the Big Green Halloween by visiting [www.ps166.org](http://www.ps166.org).

## Contests and Awards for Students

**Student Climate Change Solutions Contest** - Entry deadline Oct. 23  
Earth Day Network is holding a back-to-school Student Climate Change Solutions contest for K-4th graders. Submissions should be posters depicting climate change solutions, ideas and actions with an accompanying explanation. Winners will be announced on Earth Day Network's website and newsletter and will receive a prize package, including an autographed copy of the "think green for kids" book, Planet Earth Gets Well, poster and t-shirt for the winning student, and an autographed poster and copy of Planet Earth DVD set for the teacher/classroom. [Learn more](#)

**Prudential Spirit of Community Awards** - Application deadline Nov. 2  
Prudential Spirit of Community Awards honor outstanding community service by young people in grades 5-12 at the local, state and national level. Ten honorees in grades 5-12 will be given a cash award of \$5,000 plus a grant in the same amount to the nonprofit charitable organization of their choice for outstanding work in their communities. [Learn more](#)

**Generation Green: Youth Voices and Visions Writing Contest** - Entry deadline Dec. 4  
The National Council for Science and the Environment is calling on high school students to submit articles on the new green economy. Articles should be 500 words in length and may be opinion pieces, research showcases or articles that detail community programs. The content should be designed to express personal perspectives and experiences, identifying key issues and solutions. Selected articles will be published in a six-page insert distributed at the 10th National Conference: The New Green Economy and included in the online Encyclopedia of Earth. The winners will also be published online in Solutions, a magazine focused on sustainable environmental solutions. [Learn more](#)

**President's Environmental Youth Awards** - Entry deadline Dec. 31  
Since 1971, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has sponsored the President's Environmental Youth Awards (PEYA). The program recognizes young people across America in grades K-12 for projects which demonstrate their commitment to the environment. To be eligible to compete, a student or students, sponsored by an adult, must submit to their local EPA regional office evidence of a completed project, as well as a completed application. Young people in all 50 states and the

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### Contact Us

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U.S. territories are invited to participate in the program. [Learn more](#)

## EE Programs and Resources

### First Bloom

First Bloom is a National Park Foundation program that connects kids between 4th and 6th grades to nature and national parks. First Bloom kids meet with park rangers monthly over one program year. They engage in outdoor, hands-on activities and build their relationship with the outdoors and their national parks. First Bloom activities can also be used in a classroom setting. The Web site provides printable activities on Biology, Ecosystems and Stewardship. Games for students are also provided in the same three subject categories. [Learn more](#)

### Citizen Climate

The Will Steger Foundation developed Citizen Climate, a new high school curriculum tied to national standards that focuses on global climate solutions. This curriculum emphasizes civic engagement and helps teachers and students understand the critical and complex climate solutions being discussed on the national and international stage. It also allows students to formulate statements about what they would like to see happen in climate policy and how these policies and actions can be replicated in their states and local communities. [Learn more](#)

**2010 FLEXE Extreme Ecology Unit Pilot - Application deadline Oct. 15**  
GLOBE (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment) students in Biology, Life Science, or Environmental Science classes are invited to participate in the new From Local to Extreme Environments (FLEXE) Extreme Ecology Pilot, to begin January 2010. Participating students will investigate key concepts of deep-sea ecology, apply these concepts to the study of their environment and interact with deep-sea scientists through the FLEXE Forum. Teachers will receive training and participating classes will receive a variety of classroom resources for taking part. [Learn more](#)

### The Gravestone Project

The Geological Society of America is inviting the public to monitor gravestones to gain data on air pollution and climate change since the Industrial Revolution. Because white marble gravestones bear dates and are highly susceptible to erosion, the stones can help scientists infer a region's climate and pollution history. [Learn more](#)

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

## Funding Resources

### **Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge** - Entry deadline varies by grade level

The Siemens "We Can Change the World" challenge offers students the opportunity to make a sustainable change, matched to science, math and reading/language arts concepts and skills. Teams of students find an adult mentor who will play an active role in guiding student development of the project and submission of materials. The entry period for submissions has already begun and ends January 31, 2010 for elementary school groups and March 15, 2010 for middle school groups. [Learn more](#)

### **Increase Your Green Competition** - Competition runs from Oct. 13 to Dec. 8

DoSomething.org is calling on students to green their schools. Students who make the biggest effort to reduce their school's carbon footprint could win up to \$1,500 to further their efforts. Schools are eligible for a first-place prize of a \$1,500 grant and a banner, a plaque, an eco-friendly gift bag and a chance to be visited by the biotour bus. Three \$500 second place prizes will also be awarded. The competition opens October 13 and closes December 8. [Learn more](#)

### **AeroGrow Growing Kids Awards** - Application deadline Oct. 24

The AeroGrow Growing Kids Awards, sponsored by AeroGrow International, Inc., will provide 300 educators nationwide with useful, hands-on gardening kits to enrich and enhance the study of nutrition and life science in the classroom. This award is open to K-6 classrooms in the United States with a minimum of 15 students who plan to use indoor gardens to teach nutrition and life science. Each winning program will receive an AeroGarden Classic valued at \$150 and an AeroGrow Salad Greens Seed Kit. [Learn more](#)

### **Planet Connect Grants** - Application deadline Oct. 30

Planet Connect is accepting applications for their high school student grants. Students who have an innovative solution to an environmental problem at school or in the local community can receive \$1,000 to support their project in addition to a local environmental internship. Applicants must be between the ages of 14 and 19 and enrolled in a U.S. high school program. Planet Connect is a component of Classroom Earth, a program of the National Environmental Education Foundation. [Learn more](#)

### **Project Learning Tree 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. [Learn more](#)

### **National Gardening Association & Home Depot Youth Garden Grants Program** - Application deadline Nov. 2

The National Gardening Association (NGA) has partnered with Home Depot to provide the 2009 Youth Garden Grants. NGA awards Youth Garden Grants to schools and community organizations with child-centered

garden programs. In all, 125 grants are available for the 2009 grant cycle, which include gift cards for supply purchases at Home Depot. [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. 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.

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## Professional Development

**How We Know What We Know: Looking at Climate Change Through Polar Science - Oct. 16**

This special live webinar will celebrate Earth Science Week with polar researchers and teachers Julie Brigham-Grette, Ross Powell and Tim Martin. "Looking at Climate Change" is one of many webinars offered by Live from IPY (International Polar Year)! Anyone can register and registration is free. "Looking at Climate Change" will be held Friday, Oct. 16, 2009 at 9 a.m. Alaska Daylight Time (1 p.m. EDT). [Learn more](#)

**Ocean Observing Systems Online Workshop - Online workshop runs Oct 20 to Nov. 13**

COSEE-West (one of the Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence) invites formal and informal educators to participate in the workshop "Ocean Observing Systems (OOS)." The online workshop environment will include "rooms" to ask questions of the scientists and educators who work with OOS technologies. Teacher resources will also be provided. The workshop is free and open to any educator interested in learning about how remote-sensing technologies are used to study oceans. [Learn more](#)

**Educating for Sustainability in K-12 Schools Webinar - Webinar to be held Nov. 5**

Join the U.S. Partnership with the United Nations Decade for Education on Sustainable Development for a presentation and discussion on the national trend occurring in K-12 schools, education for sustainability (EFS). EFS is founded on the principle of "meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs" (United Nations Brundtland Commission, 1987). [Learn more](#) or [register](#) for the webinar.

**NOAA's Teacher at Sea Program - Application deadline Dec. 31**

The mission of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Teacher at Sea program is to give teachers a clearer insight into

our ocean planet and to increase their level of environmental literacy. The program sends kindergarten through college-level teachers to sea aboard NOAA research and survey ships to work under the tutelage of scientists and crew. Participants can expect to be at sea anywhere from one week to one month, with the average cruise lasting 12-14 days. [Learn more](#)

**Monarchs in Mexico 2010 - Application deadline Dec. 31**

Educators on this trip will visit three different Monarch colonies in Mexico and learn about local efforts to promote sustainable and environmentally sound economic activities in Alternare and the tree nursery at La Cruz Habitat Protection Project. The weeklong trip will be held February 6-13 and costs range between \$1500-1800 per person. Scholarships are available. [Learn more](#)

**Wildlife Conservation Society Online Professional Development - Winter session begins Jan. 22**

WCS's Professional Development Department invites K-12 formal and informal educators to take a walk on the wild side. Entirely online, these six-week courses provide unique opportunities to examine the life sciences of zoology, ecology and conservation through topics including predators, marine biology, habitat ecology and climate connections. It's not too late to sign up for the winter session: "Conservation Biology for Educators." [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>.

National Sponsor

