



Greetings! Here are the March 2012 Conservation Education Connections (resources, curriculum, grants, training, scholarships and more) from the Forest Service for you – please share with your friends and peers! If you missed the previous updates, January and February 2012 updates, are posted on our website with a lot more environmental education ideas and connections.

Check out **THE LEARNING CENTER** <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/gmug/learning> (look on the right column under quick links for the CE Connections Monthly Updates). This page also has links to the Forest Service National Conservation Education Program www.fs.usda.gov/conservationeducation.

The Educator Tool Box on the National Conservation Education website has more resources <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/conservationeducation/educator-toolbox>

WATER QUALITY MONITORING TRUNKS

The GMUG National Forest now has 7 water quality test kits available for check out to local middle and high schools. The kits are meant to help teachers get students outside the classroom and learn about aquatic ecosystem health. Kits contain equipment for aquatic invertebrate sampling, dissolved oxygen test, nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations tests, pH and other equipment to monitor the health of freshwater systems. Curriculum is also provided with the kits to help teacher incorporate these activities in to lesson plans. Kits are available for check out from the Forest Supervisors Office in Delta, Colorado. We can work with our other Forest Service offices (Grand Junction, Paonia, Montrose, Gunnison, Lake City, and Norwood) to get the trunks checked out to you. Please Contact Mike Carrillo mcarrillo@fs.fed.us (970) 874-6661.



YOUTH OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP NOMINATIONS

OUTDOOR NATION: YOUTH LEADERSHIP NOMINATIONS (ages 16-28)-The U.S. Forest Service is partnering with Outdoor Nation (ON) to empower a new generation of young leaders ages 16-28 to raise awareness and participation in outdoor related activities, leadership and careers. We need your help identifying and nominating Outdoor Nation Delegates for each of the 2012 summits. A website with all nomination and summit application information is available at: <http://www.outdoornation.org/page/2012forestservicessummitregistration>

For the first time, the SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Environmental Excellence Awards will also recognize an outstanding youth, adult and environmental educator from nominations. Follow the instructions for nominating your environmental hero and they could also be a recipient of an Environmental Excellence Award and \$10,000 to support their efforts. <http://www.seaworld.org/conservation-matters/eea/individual-awards.htm>

TEACHER TRAINING: WORKSHOPS AND WEBINARS

Resources to help you teach about climate change science. The National Council for Science and the Environment (**NCSE**), Council of Environmental Deans and Directors (CEDD) and the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) invite you to participate in a series of free weekly webinars that will introduce you to exciting resources for teaching about climate change science and solutions that are located on the CAMEL (**Climate Adaptation and Mitigation E-learning**) web portal (www.CAMELclimatechange.org). Each free webinar will feature a faculty member discussing a teaching module or exercise and how to use it in your teaching. The modules to be discussed are designed for undergraduate students, primarily at an introductory level.

[Nature Explore/Outdoor Classroom, Project Leadership Institute](#) July 8-12, 2012 at Lied Lodge and Conference Center in Nebraska City, NE. This is a comprehensive, four-day institute offered to educators with in-depth, research-based workshops. Designers and contractors will receive comprehensive information on all facets of designing and constructing research-based natural outdoor classrooms.

ART

Use tree drawings to engage people

<http://www.orionmagazine.org/index.php/articles/article/6602>

ACTIVITIES AND CONTESTS FOR KIDS

Healthivore™ Video Game Contest: "Kids getting smart about health"

Healthivore (hel thee vor): A person who eats healthy, exercises and makes good life choices. A Healthivore also teaches their friends, family and fellow students how to be healthy and strives to always make the world a healthier place. Healthivores reign supreme at the top of the health pyramid. The link to the contest (deadline May 1, 2012) is www.greenribbonschools.org/gamecontest

Students Learning Game Development: Nutrition/Fitness themes from fall 2011 pilot

- Eat Your Plants – elementary students <http://www.greenribbonschools.org/activity-detail.php?id=897>
- Eat Salad and Shoot Ice Cream Monsters – middle school students <http://www.greenribbonschools.org/activity-detail.php?id=894>
- Learn about antioxidants - high school students <http://www.greenribbonschools.org/activity-detail.php?id=873>

CAREER INFORMATION

"A Day in the Life of a Biologist." I think this is a great demo of best practices approaches that could be adapted to be used by any agency specialist engaging a classroom of kids about careers and what our agencies do. I dare say this could be used as a mini-training session for prepping a specialist with ideas before they hit the classroom: <http://distancelearning.fws.gov/videomain.html>

ELEMENTARY TEACHERS

HAVE YOUR STUDENTS SEEN THE LORAX? Follow up – check out [DISCOVER THE FOREST](#)

ALSO.....supplemental teaching activities from [Project Learning Tree](#) include some of the following:

- *[Trees for Many Reasons \("Lorax Activity"\)](#) – Students read (or watch!) Dr. Seuss's The Lorax and examines the importance of conserving and sustainably managing natural resources. (Grades 2-8)*
- *[We All Need Trees](#) – Students are often surprised to learn how many different products we get from trees. Use this activity to help your students learn just how much we depend on trees in our daily lives. (Grades PreK-6)*
- *[Three Cheers for Trees](#) – It's easy to take for granted both trees and the many benefits they provide. In this activity, students picture how their community would be different without trees and think about how much trees add to people's lives. (Grades 1-4)*
- *[Forest for the Trees](#) - In this activity, student will role-play managing a Tree Farm. By using a piece of land as a Tree Farm, they will begin to understand the economic factors that influence management decisions for private forest lands. (Grades 4-8)*
- *[400-Acre Wood](#) – In this activity, students will play the role of manager of a 400-acre (162 hectare) piece of public forest. Through this role, students will begin to understand the complex considerations that influence management decisions about forest lands. (Grades 7-8)*
- *[Plant a Tree](#) – Never underestimate the power of a tree! Besides giving us an amazing array of paper and wood products, trees provide a host of other benefits – from shading our backyards to assisting in the maintenance of the global climate. Students can express their appreciation of trees by planning and carrying out their own tree-planting project*

EVENTS

[World Environment Day](#) is an annual event that is aimed at being the biggest and most widely celebrated global day for positive environmental action. World Environment Day activities take place all year round but climax on 5 June every year, involving everyone from everywhere.

This year's [Family Nature Summit](#) will take place in Estes Park, Colorado at the Y of the Rockies, July 7-13, 2012. For more information, visit www.familysummits.org and click on "Next Summit"

ARTICLES OF INTEREST for educators....

The Pioneering Research Group presents a new paper in the IRIS series. "Kids Time Outdoors in Different Regions of the U.S." You will find the paper at this web address:

<http://warnell.forestry.uga.edu/nrrt/nsre/IRISRec/IRISRec25rpt.pdf>

Energy Literacy: Essential Principles & Fundamental Concepts for Energy Education (developed by the US Department of Energy) was published today:

<http://library.globalchange.gov/products/energy-literacy-essential-principles-fundamental-concepts-for-energy-education>

GRANT – FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

GRANTS: www.togethergreen.org/grants (DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: April 2, 2012). Innovation Grants program. All application materials can be found by visiting www.togethergreen.org. The site includes background information about the programs, selection criteria, application guidelines, and answers to questions that you might have.

OTHER GRANT DEADLINES:

April 1 - [Google Science Fair](#)

April 1 - [Wildlife Without Borders Critically Endangered Animals Conservation Fund](#)

April 2 - [Audubon Society TogetherGreen Innovation Grant](#)

April 2 - [USFS Hazardous Fuels Woody Biomass Utilization Grant](#)

April 5 - [DOT Clean Fuels Grant](#)

April 6 - [Northface Explore Fund](#)

April 9 - [EPA Wetlands Program Development Grant](#)

April 10 - [EPA Source Reduction Assistance Grant](#)

April 12 - [EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant](#)

April 13 - [NOAA Community Based Habitat Restoration Grant](#)

April 15 - [Marisla Foundation](#)

April 30 - [Patagonia Grant](#)

April 30 - [Charlotte Martin Foundation](#)

April 30 - [Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes](#)

Excellent tool for conducting funding searches - offered through the FS National Library

http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/welcome.php?menu_code=combined

[GP RED](#) is a not-for-profit organization created in 2008. Through research, education, and development, GP RED's mission is to facilitate the creation of interdisciplinary, innovative, practical management tools and strategies intended to enhance and promote integration of health, recreation, and land management industries.