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## Happy Autumn!

I hope you are enjoying the Fall season. Did you get an opportunity to enjoy the recent rains that fell on a large portion of the state? I already see some grass growing on our local hills. It should prove to be an interesting fall and winter. And through the seasons, the CREEC Network will continue to link educators to high quality EE resources for use in the classroom and the outdoors.



Be sure to subscribe to **CREEC News & Views**, a monthly statewide EE newsletter, at [www.creec.org](http://www.creec.org). You can also subscribe to the regional newsletters by visiting your region's homepage. Search the **CREEC Calendars and Resource Directory** to learn about programs and events throughout California.

## Conferences

### California Science Teachers Association Annual Conference

October 22-25, 2009, Palm Springs, CA



This is the premier annual professional development event for science teachers and educators. Conference events address all areas of science education, including life science, earth/space science, physical science, environmental science, literacy, English language development, and assessment. On-site registrations will be accepted. Visit [http://www.casience.org/csta/conf\\_home09.asp](http://www.casience.org/csta/conf_home09.asp) for details.

### Green Schools Conference - Bringing Sustainability to a New Generation

December 9-11, 2009, Pasadena, CA



Come to the nation's largest green schools event for information, education and resources that will help you discover how to take school buildings - including existing facilities - into the 21st century! Find out how you can save on energy costs, capturing additional funds for basic programs. Get details about funding programs for your school. Discover curriculum resources for integrating principles of sustainability in your curriculum! To register or for more information, visit <http://www.green-technology.org/gcschools/>.

## Grants, Awards, and Contests

### Prudential Spirit of Community Awards

Deadline: November 2, 2009



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. To learn more, visit:

<http://spirit.prudential.com/view/page>

## Grants, Awards, and Contests



### **National Gardening Association & Home Depot Youth Garden Grants**

**Deadline: November 2, 2009**

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. To apply, visit

<http://www.kidsgardening.org/YGG.asp>



### **Take Education on the Road Field Trip Grants**

**Deadline: November 3, 2009**

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. Visit <http://sites.target.com/site/en/company/page.jsp?contentId=WCMP04-031880> for more information.

### **WhaleTail Grants Program**

**Deadline: November 16, 2009**



The California Coastal Commission's WHALE TAIL<sup>®</sup> Grants Program is now accepting proposals for coastal and marine education projects. This program funds projects encouraging people to value and take action to improve the health of California's coast, marine life, or watersheds that connect with the coast. Educational coastal habitat restoration and beach maintenance projects are also eligible. Emphasis is on reaching under-served students and members of the public. Nonprofits, schools, and government agencies may apply. Applicants may request up to \$50,000, and 25-50% of the funding will be allocated in small grants below \$10,000. For guidelines and an application, visit <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/pendx.html>.

### **Generation Green: Youth Voices and Visions Writing Contest**

**Deadline: December 4, 2009**

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. For information, visit <http://ncseonline.org/conference/greeneconomy/cms.cfm?id=3302>.



### **Increase Your Green Competition**

**October 13 to December 8, 2009**

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. For more information about the competition, visit [http://www.dosomething.org/increase\\_your\\_green](http://www.dosomething.org/increase_your_green).



## Grants, Awards, and Contests



### **Disney Planet Challenge**

**Deadline to enroll: December 18, 2009**

Disney's Planet Challenge (DPC) is a highly-acclaimed project-based environmental competition for the classroom which empowers students to make a difference in their school, at home and in their local communities. Among Disney's most significant inspirational initiatives, the program has been available in a growing number of regional markets (California, Florida, Cayman Islands and Hong Kong) since 1994 (as "Disney's Environmental Challenge®). The national grand prize winner will receive an expenses-paid trip the Disneyland® Resort and a chance to have their project featured on Disney Channel. Up to four regional winners will receive a \$2500.00 grant for the teacher, an environmentally conscious Disney prize pack for each student and more. Up to 50 state finalists (1 per state) will receive up to a \$1000.00 grant, each student will receive a prize pack and more. For more information, please visit [www.disney.com/planetchallenge](http://www.disney.com/planetchallenge).



### **President's Environmental Youth Awards**

**Deadline: December 31, 2009**

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 U.S. territories are invited to participate. To apply, visit <http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/peya/index.html>.

### **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. Visit <http://wecanchange.com/>

### **Recycle Rex**

**November 16, 2009 to March 13, 2010**



Register your K-6<sup>th</sup> grade classes for Recycle Rex's Statewide Recycle Challenge beginning October 26, 2009. The registration form will be available at the Department of Conservation's web site. You may register by email or regular mail. The winners will be announced on Earth Day, April 22, 2010! To register, visit <http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dor/rre/Pages/index.aspx>.

## Programs and Resources

### Big Green Halloween



One New York elementary school is hosting **Big Green Halloween**. There will be a Haunted House, games and fun activities. Their goal is to also host a green event, with biodegradable tableware, recycled crafts like paper lantern-making, eco-friendly raffles and prizes, local and organic foods, a composting demonstration, compost bins for food scraps, seed-planting activities, green information booths, and much more! How is your school going Green? Need ideas, visit the PS 166 website at

<http://www.ps166.org/home.aspx>.

### 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. To learn more, visit <http://s291372515.onlinehome.us/index.php>.

### 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.

<http://www.willstegerfoundation.org/index.php/programs/k-12-education-program>.

### Blue Ocean Institute

The Blue Ocean Institute has released the updated version of the Guide to Ocean Friendly Seafood. To download a copy, visit

<http://www.blueocean.org/files/October2009SeafoodGuide.pdf>.



## Workshops and Teacher Opportunities

### Ocean Observing Systems Online Workshop

October 20 to November 13, 2009



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. To learn more about this program, visit

[http://www.usc.edu/org/cosee-west/PDFs/Onlineworkshop\\_Nov2009.pdf](http://www.usc.edu/org/cosee-west/PDFs/Onlineworkshop_Nov2009.pdf).

## Workshops and Teacher Opportunities

### **NOAA Teacher at Sea Program**

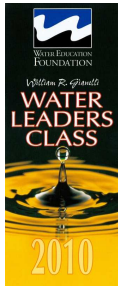
**Deadline: December 31, 2009**



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. To apply, visit <http://teacheratsea.noaa.gov/apply/index.html>.

### **Water Leaders 2010**

**Deadline: December 7, 2009**



Applications are being accepted for the Foundation's **2010 Water Leaders Class**, a yearlong program that educates young professionals from diverse backgrounds about water issues. Each class member is assigned a top level policy-maker as a mentor as the class researches and analyzes a specific water topic. Class members are expected to attend a January orientation, the Bay-Delta Tour, one other Foundation tour, and the March 25-26 Executive Briefing. Class members also spend time shadowing their mentor and working on a class-prepared research report. Tuition is \$2,500 and there is a \$25 application fee. Scholarship funding is available. The class begins January 2010. To apply, visit <http://www.watereducation.org/userfiles/2010WaterLeaders.pdf>.

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## Legislation

### **No Child Left Inside Act**

A logo for the "No Child Left Inside Act". It features the text "No Child Left Inside" in a serif font, with a small graphic of a hand holding a plant seedling to the right. Below the text is a small black box with the text "No Child Left Inside" in white.

The No Child Left Inside movement enjoys widespread support from many sectors of American society. To date, over 1450 organizations have signed on to support the legislation, representing 50 million Americans. It is considered the largest coalition in the country. Business, faith, health, environmental, recreation, and many other organizations have come together to work towards the goal of achieving environmental literacy for all students. To learn more about this national legislation to support environmental literacy, visit <http://www.cbf.org/Page.aspx?pid=699>.

### **Sustainable Seafood Bill Signed**

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has signed California's Sustainable Seafood Bill (AB 1217) into law. Under the law, the state's Ocean Protection Council will develop standards for what constitutes sustainable fishing practices and initiate labeling for seafood that meets these standards. The efforts proposed in AB 1217 are expected to correlate with the Monterey Bay Aquarium's popular Seafood Watch - a program that researches what seafood is fished responsibly and provides guidance to millions of seafood consumers. To learn more about this recently passed legislation, visit <http://www.assembly.ca.gov/acs/acsframeset2text.htm>.

News & Views is a monthly publication of the California Regional Environmental Education Community Network.

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