

STEEP – CREEC



Newsletter

Fall 2005

The Stanislaus Tuolumne Environmental Education Project of the California Regional Environmental Education Community Network

The California Regional Environmental Education Network (CREEC) is a statewide network sponsored by the California Department of Education. And is supported by the Stanislaus County Office of Education and the Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools Office.



For more environmental education resources visit www.creec.org Region 6B

Interested in being part of the STEEP-CREEC Network? Call Tricia Dunlap 525-6604 or 536-2015

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Disney's Jiminy Cricket's Environmentality Challenge

Disney has announced the re-launch of the Jiminy Cricket's Environmentality Challenge web site— www.jceckids.org!

Teachers can use the site as a tool for getting environmental education materials, finding grant resources, lesson plans, and looking at sample portfolios in the class. The deadline to enter the challenge has been extended to November 15, 2005.

The Environmentality Pledge: Students complete pledge forms to demonstrate their commitment to thinking and acting environmentally at school, at home, and in their community. Teachers may conduct class discussions to highlight simple activities that students can do to better the environment. Participating students receive a special gift from Jiminy Cricket himself.

The Class Project Competition: Students and teachers who elect to take their action to the next level may submit a more comprehensive class project where they target a real-world area of environmental concern, then develop and implement a plan of action to address the issue. Teachers are encouraged to incorporate state content standards in the development of the class projects. The Grand Prize winning class will receive an all expenses paid vacation to Disneyland!



GRANTS and AWARDS

EPA EE Grant Program for 2006 Deadline November 23, 2005

The EPA Environmental Education Grants Program is seeking grant proposals that support environmental education projects that promote and enhance environmental stewardship and help develop public awareness in making informed and responsible decisions that affect environmental quality. <http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants>.

2006 Youth Gardening Grant: Deadline November 30, 2005

The National Gardening Association is delighted to announce that The Home Depot has returned as their Youth Garden Grants sponsor for 2006. Grant recipients will receive awards of \$500 or \$250 gift certificates to Home Depot. For more information visit: <http://www.kidsgardening.com/grants.asp>

Captain Planet Foundation Grants: Deadline the last day of **December**, March, June, and September continually. The captain Planter Foundation provides grants to support hands-on environmental projects. Most awards are less than \$500 but can range from \$500-\$2,500. Go to <http://www.captainplanetfdn.org>

2006 Young Naturalist Awards Deadline January 6, 2006

The American Museum of Natural History 2006 Young Naturalist Awards invites students in grades 7-12 to participate in a research-based essay contest to promote participation and communication in science. Two winners from each grade will be selected to receive cash scholarship awards and an expense-paid trip to New York City for the awards ceremony. Contact Christine Economos, YNA administrator at yna@amnh.org or call (212)496-3498.

<http://www.amnh.org/nationalcenter/youngnaturalistawards>



"Leaf-it-to-Us" Tree Planting Grant ongoing

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection is pleased to announce the availability of a tree planting grant program designed for school kids to improve their school environments. The Leaf-It-To-Us grants are available through: Glenn Flamik, (916) 651-6423 or glenn.flamik@fire.ca.gov or at www.ufe.org.

Arbor Day Poster Contest for 5th Grade Deadline March 1, 2006

"Trees are Terrific...In All Shapes and Sizes!" For 5th grade classes

A FREE curriculum kit explaining how to conduct the annual Arbor Day poster contest is now available. The kit contains suggestions for activities and projects that will increase students awareness and appreciation of the importance of trees and conservation of forests. To request a kit, contact Kay Antunez, contest coordinator, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection at 916-653-7958 or Kay.Antunez@fire.ca.gov.

Lowe's Toolbox for Education Deadline March 15, 2006

Up to \$5,000 to support parent-teacher group projects for campus beautification. Use the money to develop a reading garden, vegetable garden, school nature trail or landscaping project. Use your imagination! Go to <http://www.toolboxforeducation.com>.



Show Me the Money: Tips & Resources for Successful Grant Writing

Many educators have found that grants allow them to provide their students with educational experiences and materials their own districts cannot afford. Learn how to get those grants by visiting the Education World website at <http://www.educationworld.com/a-curr/profdevo39.shtml>

Professional Development, Workshops and Resources

The **Children's Environmental Literature Bibliography** is available for download courtesy of Wisconsin's [Project WILD](#), [Project Learning Tree](#) and [Project WET](#) programs. This popular resource was initially developed in 1997 and has been revised as a reading list for early childhood providers and to help K-12 teachers meet the requirements of the No Child Left Behind legislation (NCLB). The bibliography contains more than 400 books, over 300 of them new additions.



<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/ee/teacher/childlit.htm>

Fundamentals of EE Course Online February 6 - April 21, 2006

This 10-week online course about the fundamentals of environmental education is appropriate for both classroom teachers and for non-formal educators who work with students and teachers. Developed by the Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP) in collaboration with national EE experts, it provides educators with the knowledge and skills necessary to incorporate quality environmental education into their instruction. Participants may obtain three undergraduate or graduate credits. Go to http://www.eetap.org/html/online_ee_courses.php

Water Quality Service Learning Program

The California Water Boards present the Water Quality Service Learning Program on **November 15th from 4pm to 5pm.**

The webcast training will:

- ✓ Demonstrate how units of study align with California Content Standards
- ✓ Introduce teachers to water quality issues
- ✓ Highlight the benefits of service learning for students
- ✓ Explain the steps for conducting the water-related science investigation
- ✓ Provide examples of service learning activities for students



If you would like to participate at your own computer, which will need a fast internet connection of T1 or higher, go to <http://www4.scoe.net/ims/webcasts/cf/index.cfm> and register. If you would like to participate in the webcast training at the Stanislaus County Office of Education contact Tricia Dunlap, CREEC 6b Coordinator, tdunlap@stancoe.org or call (209) 525-6604.

Capitol Area Science Education Leader Conference (CASEL)

January 19, 2006, 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. San Joaquin County Office of Education, \$125
Spend the day learning about testing information, connections to literacy, technology, and many curriculum ideas. PLUS, this will be the first presentation by Dr. Art Sussman about his new book, "Dr. Art's Guide to Science". ALL participants will receive the new book and DVD. For questions and registration contact Paula Thomson 209-468-9096 or pthomson@sjcoe.net. View the complete flyer at www.edserv.sjcoe.net/casel

Science Teachers Academy and Network (STAN)

STAN is an innovative professional development program designed for 4th, 5th, and 6th grade teachers to increase their knowledge of science content and pedagogy based on the California Science Content Standards. Modesto Jr. College, in collaboration with the Stanislaus County Office of Education, will be offering Concepts of Physical Science, Science 203 and Concepts of Life Science, Science 202 during the winter and spring of 2006. For information and registration materials contact Michele Monlux, STAN Faculty Coordinator, 209-575-6803 or email monluxm@yosemite.cc.ca.us. You can also visit the STAN website, <http://www.virtual.yosemite.cc.ca.us/stan/>.

Environmental Education Initiative

In October 2003, Governor Gray Davis signed AB 1548 which established the Education and Environment Initiative (EEI). Cal EPA and the California Integrated Waste Management Board oversee EEI in cooperation with the Resources Agency, the California Department of Education, and the State Board of Education. Dr. Gerald Lieberman from the State Education and Environment Roundtable (SEER) and Jennifer Rigby from The Acorn Group served as lead consultants in the development of Environmental Principles and Concepts with the involvement of over 100 scientists and technical experts. This landmark environmental education law involves a comprehensive state program that provides environmental principles and concepts aligned with standards-based curricula in all disciplines. To view the Model Curriculum Plan visit www.ca.epa.ca.gov/education/EEI.

Just recently, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed AB 1721 which allocated \$7 million over two years to continue the work of EEI. While the Model Curriculum is being developed, public outreach efforts will begin to inform education administrators of the Education and Environment Initiative. The CREEC Network Coordinators will be available to make presentations to school district administrators beginning in the spring 2006.

Share this newsletter with your colleagues and visit <http://www.creec.org/region6b> for regular updates. To receive this quarterly newsletter directly, contact Tricia Dunlap at tdunlap@stancoe.org and type "subscribe" in the subject line.