

This newsletter is a publication of the California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC) Network. CREEC is administered by the California Department of Education, Environmental Education Program, in partnership with numerous agencies.

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Special Thanks

Welcome back to another wonderful school year full of environmental education opportunities! It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself to CREEC and Region 7. Though I am new to CREEC, I am not new to science. I had the pleasure of teaching science for a number of years before becoming a site administrator and now at Merced County Office of Education I am able to come home to the science community again!

I welcome you to become involved in your community and city to support an environmental education community where you work and play!

Rae Ann Jimenez

To subscribe to this newsletter, please go to: www.creec.org/region7 and click on subscribe to newsletter.

FRESNO CHAFFEE ZOO

FREE! Teacher Workshop at the Zoo!

Jean Michel Cousteau's Ocean Adventures

Tuesday, October 20 2009

4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

<http://www.fresnochaffeezoo.com/education.html>

The Fresno Chaffee Zoo offers programs that come to you!

The Zoomobile program brings live animal presentations right into your classroom. The presentations are designed to meet the California Science Standards for each grade level and include a selection of animals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and creepy crawlies that visit your school. (559) 498-5920 or



zoomobile@fresnochaffeezoo.com or

<http://www.fresnochaffeezoo.com/education/offsite.html>

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Announcements:

All drafts of Education and the Environment Initiative (EEI) Curriculum units are available on the web:

www.calepa.ca.gov/education/EEI/curriculum/default.htm#curriculumunits



Kid's Adopt-A-Beach Event

100 students from Ahawahnee Middle School, Fresno participated in last year's beach clean-up event in Monterey, sponsored through a grant from the California Coastal Commission and coordinated by the Fresno Chaffee Zoo. The students spent the morning picking up trash and recyclables and discovered the most common trash on the beach was cigarette butts! If you are an upper elementary or middle school teacher and want to participate in the next beach clean up event in June of 2010, please contact Lesley Gates (559) 498-5944 or lgates@fresnochaffeezoo.com

GRANTS, CONFERNCES, AND COMPETITIONS

Disney Launches "Disney's Planet Challenge" Disney has announced the nationwide launch of [Disney's Planet Challenge](http://www.disney.com/planetchallenge), a **project-based environmental competition for 4th – 6th grade classrooms that will empower students to make a difference in school, at home and in their local communities.** Formally known as "Disney's Environmentality Challenge" Participation in the program is **FREE**, and enrollment is open today at www.disney.com/planetchallenge .

Target Field Trip Grants

<https://targetfieldtripgrants.target.com/>

Teachers can apply on-line to receive up to \$800 grant for a field trip for their students! Open until November 3rd, 2009

GRANTS, CONFERENCES, AND COMPETITIONS cont.

Earth Science Week K-9 Student Contest

Student entries may be submitted now, and are due by the Friday of Earth Science Week, Oct. 16, 2009. The photography contest, open to all ages, focuses on “How Climate Shapes My World.” The visual arts contest, titled “The Climate Where I Live,” is open to students in grades K-5 and students in grades 6-9 are eligible to enter the essay contest: “Climate Connections.” To learn more about these contests, including how to enter, visit <http://www.earthsciweek.org/contests/>.

PARENTS' CORNER

Science: It's a Girl Thing!

Science: It's a Girl Thing! is using the power of social media to connect with parents and educators about how to foster girls' interest in science and technology, and why that is important. Funded by the National Science Foundation, the program offers web-based and easy-to-use resources for conducting science activities at home. It builds on everyday science that parents already know. Just as children are natural scientists, parents are natural teachers. **Science: It's a Girl Thing!** includes a series of short, entertaining and educational videos and *free downloadable PDF activity cards* for parents to use in working with their daughters. To access the free activity cards, visit **It's a Girl Thing** at <http://www.edequity.org/sigt/>

SPECIAL THANKS

I would like to send a special thank you to Region 7 participants for sending Environmental news and pictures for the newsletter and for having a strong commitment to Environmental Education for California and especially Region 7!