



Central Coast CREEC

Linking Central Coast Teachers with Quality Environmental Education Resources

February 2010

Region 8 Serves San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura and Kern Counties

In This Issue

- EE Success Stories
- EE Resources
- Trainings/Workshops
- Community Events
- Conferences/Classes
- EE Grants/Contests

Have a newsletter submission?

Contact Teresa Lees for submission guidelines!

Contact CREEC 8
Teresa "Tree" Lees
CREEC 8 Coordinator
tlees@slocoe.org
805-782-7265
www.creec.org/region8

EE Success Stories

CREEC Network EE Provider Reception – Santa Barbara County - February 24, 2010 4pm to 6pm at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

This is your opportunity to come together and network with fellow environmental educators in Santa Barbara County. Please RSVP with Tree Lees at tlees@slocoe.org

The guest speaker will be someone who will give us an update on the proposal to have more off-shore oil drilling in the Santa Barbara area and what that means for environmental educators.

We will have a Program Share, so bring your brochures and event dates. We will have an update on the EEI curriculum project for the State of California too.

The EE Provider reception for Kern County will be on March 31, 2010 3pm to 5pm in the Computer Lab at the Learning Center next to the KCSOS offices in Bakersfield on 2020 "K" Street. Please mark your calendars.

Environmental Literacy included in Obama's new Education Budget: Historic First

We just logged a major victory for No Child Left Inside, perhaps our most significant. President Obama's budget that was released yesterday includes environmental literacy in the U.S. Department of Education budget for the very first time. We now have the Obama administration officially on our side, and better yet, in their budget.

President Obama and Secretary Duncan have made innovation and student achievement a major platform of the Obama Administration. As a result, environmental literacy has been included in a new program. The proposed budget includes a new \$1.0 billion for **Effective Teaching and Learning for a Complete Education** program designed to improve instruction to support college- and career readiness standards, in part through the use of technology to deliver high-quality content. The new program includes 3 components:

- Literacy: \$450 million, an increase of \$36.7 million, to consolidate 7 existing Elementary and Secondary Education Act programs into a new program that would help States and local education authorities improve literacy skills by supporting professional development and improved instructional materials.
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM): \$300 million, an increase of \$119.5 million, or 66 percent, to expand the Federal investment in improved teaching and learning of STEM disciplines, especially in high-need schools and school systems, and prepare the next generation of scientists and engineers.
- A Well-Rounded Education: \$265 million, an increase of \$38.9 million, or 17 percent, to consolidate 7 current authorities and expand support for the subjects important to a complete curriculum, including: history, the arts, foreign languages, environmental literacy, and economic and financial literacy.

In This Issue

- EE Success Stories
- EE Resources
- Trainings/Workshops
- Community Events
- Conferences/Classes
- EE Grants/Contests

Have a newsletter submission?

Contact Teresa Lees for submission guidelines!

Contact CREEC 8
Teresa "Tree" Lees
CREEC 8 Coordinator
tlees@slocoe.org
806-782-7265
www.creec.org/region8

What does it mean? In the short term, it means that we can expect President Obama's education bill (**Elementary and Secondary Education Act, formerly known as No Child Left Behind**) to include language from the No Child Left Inside Act, which will help force the hand of Congress, where we already have 87 House cosponsors and 17 Senate cosponsors. We still have a great deal of work to do, and we will continue to count on you to take action and stay involved.

Home >Newsroom >What's hot >First plug-in hybrid school bus in Ventura

First plug-in hybrid school bus in Ventura



CEC helped Ventura Unified School District put into service the first plug-in hybrid school bus in Southern California. This new bus is one of the first commercially available plug-in hybrids, and could achieve a fuel economy increase of up to 65% with pollutants reduced up to 40%.

A press conference and ribbon cutting ceremony received coverage in the LA Times, Ventura County Star, and numerous other newspapers, TV and radio stories.

Plug-in hybrids are like super efficient regular hybrid vehicles, but with larger batteries, advanced electronics, and a capacity to plug in to the grid, allowing for the vehicles to partially run on clean electricity. Electric motors are as much as three times as efficient as internal combustion engines and can be powered by renewable energy. Thus a plug-in hybrid or electric vehicle that parks near and draws power from a building with solar panels can literally be "driving on sunshine."

Ventura Unified's new bus may be driving on sunshine, as local solar company Planet Solar has offered to donate a 2.5 kW solar array to the school district. This would provide sufficient solar power for the electric portion of its drive cycle.

The bus was funded through two grants. California's Lower Emissions School Bus program covered the cost of replacing a polluting 1977 school bus with a new diesel bus. CEC was also awarded funding through the Federal EPA's Clean School Bus USA program to pay for the incremental cost of the plug in hybrid system. Fleet managers interested in hybrid medium and heavy duty technology will have additional incentive money available soon. The California Air Resources Board is offering incentives of up to \$45,000 for new hybrid trucks, vans and other large vehicles. If you or someone you know is interested in this program, please contact CEC Transportation Specialist Michael Chiacos at 963-0583, ext. 110.

EE Resources

CREEC Network BLOG – <http://creecorg.blogspot.com/> A newly established BLOG is on the CREEC Network website. You can access the BLOG on any regional CREEC website or the State homepage at www.creec.org. The BLOG is one of the links on the left hand side. Each month one of the CREEC Coordinators will write a BLOG entry.

The February Blog contains two entries – one of the California Redwoods and another on Nearby Nature in the San Diego area. Check it out.

CREEC News & Views – www.creec.org Celeste Royer, State Director of the CREEC Network also publishes a monthly E-Newsletter that can be viewed at the CREEC Home website www.creec.org. You can also subscribe to her monthly newsletter. **Note that all CREEC Newsletters must now be subscribed to online for all new people.**

National EE Week – April 11-17, 2010 <http://www.eeweek.org/>. National Environmental Education Week (EE Week) promotes understanding and protection of the natural world by actively engaging K-12th grade students and educators of all subjects in an inspired week of environmental learning and service before Earth Day. The new year is in full swing, and we hope one of your resolutions is to engage students in more environmental learning activities in 2010. Be sure to check out our ever-growing resources, lesson plans and tools at www.EEweek.org.

In This Issue

- EE Success Stories
- EE Resources
- Trainings/Workshops
- Community Events
- Conferences/Classes
- EE Grants/Contests

Have a newsletter submission?

Contact Teresa Lees for submission guidelines!

Contact CREEC 8
Teresa "Tree" Lees
CREEC 8 Coordinator
tlees@slocoe.org
805-782-7265
www.creec.org/region8

Just three months remain until EE Week 2010! During the week of April 11-17, thousands of educators and millions of students across the country will participate in a week celebrating environmental learning - and you can join us! Register today at www.eeweek.org/register to take advantage of EE Week's resources and benefits just for participants, including discounts and special offers, certificates of participation, free educator webinars and more.

EE Week's 2010 theme is [Be Water and Energy Wise](#). While exploring the topics of water and energy conservation, we also encourage you and your students to reflect on the important connections between water and energy.

National Wildlife Week – March 15-21, 2010

<http://www.nwf.org/Get-Outside/Be-Out-There/Events/National-Wildlife-Week/At-School.aspx>

Studies show that children who spend time outside are more creative, have less stress and perform better in school. Help your students appreciate wildlife, and unlock their learning and imaginative potential during National Wildlife Week.

Easy-to-Use Climate Change Action Projects for K-12 Students

<http://www.facingthefuture.org/ServiceLearning/ClimateChangeActionProjects/tabid/350/Default.aspx>

Facing the Future has released a comprehensive service-learning resource for climate change. The Climate Change Action Project Database includes more than 25 ready-to-use action projects that will prepare students to understand and take action on climate change.

Climate Kids

<http://climate.nasa.gov/kids/>

NASA offers the Climate Kids: NASA's Eyes on the Earth website, targeted at kids in grades 4-6. It offers online interactives, images, video, and content, along with links to websites with educator resources.

Climate Change Education Program

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

Will Steger Foundation's K-12 interdisciplinary climate change education program includes lesson plans that are experiential in nature, tied to national standards, and available free for download. The curricula and online adventure learning program is proud to have the support of the National Education Association with over 3.2 million members. Will Steger Foundation also provides exciting expedition footage from Will Steger and partner polar expeditions and a variety of other resources.

Dunes Center in Guadalupe in Northern Santa Barbara County

There are exciting things going on at the Dunes Center! We have a variety of programs designed within California State Science Standards for kindergarten through 8th graders that you can bring to your classroom, or that bring your classroom outside. Each program is tailored to suit the grade level. The in-school programs we offer are:

1. Birds—Our Feathered Friends
2. Mammals—Pelage, Skulls, Tracks and Scat
3. Sand Secrets (Dune Geology)—Microhabitats for Invertebrates
4. Observation & Deduction (Private Eye)
5. Schoolyard Biodiversity—Diversity in Different Habitats
6. Plants—Botany

We also offer two exciting fieldtrips. We can lead your classroom through a hands-on, exciting and engaging fieldtrip at either Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve or at Oso Flaco Lake Natural Area. The fieldtrips are approximately 3 to 4 hours long and each trip presents a unique opportunity for students to experience the natural environments within the dunes complex. If these programs do not fit your specific class's needs, we can design a program to fit your specific curriculum. Several local schools have already taken advantage of this great opportunity to have our experienced Education and Outreach Specialist share their love of the dunes and passion for science with their students.

In This Issue

- EE Success Stories
- EE Resources
- Trainings/Workshops
- Community Events
- Conferences/Classes
- EE Grants/Contests

Have a newsletter submission?

Contact Teresa Lees for submission guidelines!

Contact CREEC 8
Teresa "Tree" Lees
CREEC 8 Coordinator
tlees@slocoe.org
805-782-7265
www.creec.org/region8

If you are looking for an exciting way to teach science standards and to provide a quality hands-on science learning, then you will truly benefit from a classroom visit or fieldtrip led by our professional educators. Our prices are competitive and our programs provide a unique science experience. You can visit our website at www.dunescenter.org to learn more and submit a reservation request. You can also reach us at 805-343-2455.

Outside Now! Presents Raven's Path Nature Immersion and Skill-Based Leadership Program for Teens

The intention of the Raven's Path program is to cultivate young men and young women who are comfortable being themselves in nature, at home and in their communities.

The youth in our program will move toward this goal by immersing themselves in the natural world and continuing to develop a sense of place. We will practice wilderness survival skills and other earth-based activities that foster understanding and respect for our local plant, animal, and natural communities that support all our lives.

Location: Santa Rosa Park, San Luis Obispo

Date: Wednesdays

Time: 9:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Instructors: Brian Engleton and Evan Albright

Call 541-9900 to register.

More EE Resources can be found on the CREEC 8 Website in the "Resource Directory" as well as the "For Teachers" or "For Providers" link.

Trainings & Workshops

PG&E Solar Schools Program Workshop, Fresno, Saturday February 20th

Hampton Inn and Suites
855 Gettysburg Ave
Clovis, CA 93612

You may register online at: <http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?eventid=819737>

Teachers who attend the 6-hour Solar Schools workshop will receive:

- \$400 "Science of Energy" Hands-on kit that explores energy transformations from one form to others (chemical, electrical, motion, sound, etc.).
- Grade-level Solar Energy Hands-on kit worth up to \$350.
- Additional energy curriculum worth approximately \$50.
- Strategies for teaching about energy in all content areas!
- How to lead students in conducting energy audits and the connection of energy use and climate change.
- Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.
- Information on Bright Ideas grants.

Registrants will be notified of the workshop location in their confirmation emails.

More information about the Solar Schools program is here: <http://www.need.org/pgesolarschools/>

In This Issue

- EE Success Stories
- EE Resources
- Trainings/Workshops
- Community Events
- Conferences/Classes
- EE Grants/Contests

Have a newsletter submission?

Contact Teresa Lees for submission guidelines!

Contact CREEC 8
Teresa "Tree" Lees
CREEC 8 Coordinator
tlee@slocoe.org
805-782-7265
www.creec.org/region8

Fresh Fruits & Vegetables Training Part II– March 8 & 9 in Salinas, CA.

This free two-day training is designed for school personnel and community partners. It provides tools to support an increase of fresh fruits and vegetables on school campuses through fun, interactive, and skill-building activities. Register now! Download training flyer and register at: <http://www.healthyschoolenvironment.org/workshop-registration>

DAY ONE – 8:45 to 3:30 pm

- Team Building: Communications and Connections
- Incredible Edible Plant Parts: Making the Connection to Science
- Nurturing Plants and People: Garden-Enhanced Nutrition Education
- Sustainability: Maintaining the Momentum
- Go Green with Network Resources: Before, During, and After School

DAY TWO – 8:45 to 1:00 pm

- Promotions that Bring the Community Together
- Collaborative Farm to School Efforts
- Noon-Time Forum: Seasonal Produce Culinary Arts

Cousteau's Summer Teachers' Workshop

Join Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ocean Futures for an exciting 5-day, 4-night teacher workshop. The program will be taught by senior marine biologist, Dr. Richard Murphy, in beautiful El Capitan Canyon at the ocean in Santa Barbara, California. The workshop will focus on inquiry-based learning with classroom materials, videos and lessons on marine ecology and sustainable living with an emphasis on ecological roles and connections between species. Teacher learning process will include experiential learning via hiking, snorkeling, kayaking, creek walks and more.

Location: El Capitan Campground www.elcapitancanyon.com

Cost \$850.00 (includes meals, materials and lodging)

3 Hours Graduate Credit: Mesa State College

Deadline to register: March 1, 2010

Contacts:

Laney Heath laneyh@mesa.k12.co.us ph. (970) 261-6422 OR

Laura Brands: lbrands@oceanfutures.org ph. (805) 899-8899 ext 104

More information at <http://www.oceanfutures.org> OR go to

<http://www.oceanfutures.org/learning/ambassadors-environment/additional-opportunities>

More Trainings & Workshops can be found on the CREEC 8 Website in the "For Teachers" link.

Community Events

Pacific Marine Mammals weekend at Camp Ocean Pines February 19 – 21, 2010

Each winter, Camp Ocean Pines in Cambria, CA likes to invite marine science leaders to come and share their thoughts, expertise, and latest discoveries with the public. We think it is important for people to learn directly from experts in forums that allow for interaction and questions. It is fun to rub shoulders with these folks and young people sometimes choose a life path as a result of such an encounter. We are honored to have Pieter Folkens visit us this February and are looking forward to sharing in his unique stories and extraordinary knowledge of the marine mammals. We hope you'll come and join us for the weekend or just an evening to take a glimpse into the lives of PACIFIC MARINE MAMMALS.

Go to www.campoceanpines.org for more information.

Friday February 19 - 7PM

"Pacific Cetaceans on the Comeback." Pieter Folkens

In This Issue

- EE Success Stories
- EE Resources
- Trainings/Workshops
- Community Events
- Conferences/Classes
- EE Grants/Contests

Have a newsletter submission?

Contact Teresa Lees for submission guidelines!

Contact CREEC 8
Teresa "Tree" Lees
CREEC 8 Coordinator
tlees@slocoe.org
805-782-7265
www.creec.org/region8

Saturday February 20 - 9AM-3PM

Whale Watching in Morro Bay: Observation and sketching techniques

Saturday February 20 - Evening 6PM

"Communication in Science: A Global Warming case study."- Pieter Folkens

Sunday February 21 - Morning 9AM

Observation and sketching of the elephant seals at Piedras Blancas.

Join us at Earth Day 2010 – Santa Barbara April 17 & 18th

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, and we hope you'll join us to celebrate. CEC is excited to host an expanded two-day festival featuring more music, food, and large-scale green activities than ever before. For more on festival highlights, our partners, and why we're expanding the event this year, visit www.SBEarthDay.org. We look forward to seeing you there!



LEARN MORE ABOUT GETTING INVOLVED

EXHIBITORS - Online registration opens at noon **Monday, February 1, 2010.**

Review the festival map and other important information Monday morning at www.SBEarthDay.org. Exhibitors choose their own locations so register early!

SPONSORS - Festival partnership opportunities are now available at www.SBEarthDay.org. Packages can be customized to fit your needs and include such perks as logo placement on the poster and festival guide, free booth spaces, rental packages, and VIP passes.

GREEN SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL - The Green Shorts Film Festival is an annual online film festival about saving our planet, helping our environment and being green. A public screening at the Lobero will kick off Earth Day weekend on Friday, April 16.

Earth Day in San Luis Obispo

March 20th - Kick Off Event at Meadow Park

March 28th – Pacific Breeze Concert at Dinosaur Park

April 5th – 9th – Earth “Day Camp” at Rancho El Chorro Outdoor School

April 17th – Wine & Food Earth Day in Santa Margarita

April 18 – North County Earth at Atascadero Lake

April 24 – Earth Day at Mission Plaza

Earth Day in Ventura County

April 10th – Earth Day in Oxnard

Natural Leaders Day – Get Outside and Play Day – April 2010

Part of the Children & Nature Network - Efforts underway for 2010 include the second annual Natural Leaders Day: Get Outside and Play in April 2010, the Second Annual Natural Leaders Summit in the summer of 2010, and the creation of five pilot NLN outreach efforts in Los Angeles, New York City, New Mexico, Wyoming, and Washington DC. NLN members in these five regions will engage a diversity of youth to inform the creation of a NLN Tool Kit and the development of a facilitation training program for a growing corps of Natural Leaders. These new regional networks will help NLN grow and develop into a significant force in connecting youth and the communities they live in with the outdoors.

<http://www.childrenandnature.org>

Girl Scouts of Northern California, in collaboration with NASA's Ames Research Center, is hosting a Girl Scout Destination in the San Francisco Bay area, July 22-Aug. 1, 2010. This dynamic program is designed to excite girls and inspire them toward stewardship and innovation in all they do.

"The Future is Green" is a marriage of the Girls Go Tech and Green by Nature initiatives. This cutting-edge adventure will offer girls the opportunity to explore how green technology in astronomy, environment and robotics can help save Earth.

Astronomy participants will learn about the night sky, technology used to explore the universe, and how astronomers have become instrumental in research regarding global climate change and space debris. Robotics participants will explore the importance of robots in exploration, health care and helping to make the world "green." The girls will then design, build and program their own robot to meet certain challenges. Environment participants will explore the eco-challenges and successes of the San Francisco Bay.

Field trips for all participants include NASA's Ames Research Center, Monterey Bay Aquarium and behind the scenes at the California Academy of Sciences. This opportunity is open to girls ages 13-18. Participants must at least be entering the 9th grade at the time of the event. All girls are welcome, and participants do not need to be Girl Scouts to apply. Applications are due Feb. 28, 2010.

For a complete description of the event, costs and application procedures, visit http://www.studio2b.org/escape/destinations/event_details.asp?eventid=523.

Questions about the event should be directed to:

Marissa Cidre mcidre@girlscoutsnorcal.org, 408-287-4170 ext.237

More Community Events can be found on the CREEC 8 Website in the "EE Calendar" link.

Conferences/Classes

AEOE Conference – April 30-May 2, 2010 Malibu, CA

The Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education statewide spring conference will be held at the Camp Hess Kramer campground in Malibu, CA. The theme for this year is "Building Foundations." Workshop thematic strands include: Diversity, Natural History, Teaching, Professional Development, Sustainability, and Recreation/Team Building.

Deadline for Workshop Presenter Application is February 12, 2010 for a 50% discount.

For more information and application go to: www.aeoe.org

Permaculture Design Course at Cuesta College

in Collaboration with Quail Springs Permaculture Farm

Starts March 13 thru April 24; Completion at Quail Springs May 15-16, 2010

Permaculture is the art and science of designing human beings place in the environment. It is a conscious integrated design system base on ecology and sustainability principles to create resource efficient and productive human environments and reduce our footprint on the earth. Permaculture provides a framework for consciously designed landscapes that mimic the patterns and relationships found in nature.

Cuesta College Instructor: **Josh Carmichael**

Six Saturdays , Mar 13 - Apr 24; 9am-1pm Class Lecture

1-4pm - Class will be held in the field

(No Class Mar 27)

Course# 626OD.110; Fee: \$700

<http://www.communityprograms.net/comed/od.htm> - Intro to Permaculture

More Conferences/Classes can be found on the CREEC 8 Website in the “EE Calendar” or “For Providers” links.

EE Grants & Contests

PG&E Bright Ideas Grants are due March 20th!

Credentialed teachers, professors, instructors, principals, deans, department heads, district administrators and facilities managers may apply to receive a \$1000, \$2,500, \$5000, or \$10,000 grant to promote environmental stewardship in any of the five following categories:

- Educational Solar Projects: Successful submissions will include innovative classroom and extracurricular programs/projects that explore the science of solar energy and the generation of electricity from solar
- Youth Energy and Environmental Programs: Successful submissions will include energy efficiency, recycling, composting, water reclamation and/or gardening programs and clubs that serve as learning and leadership opportunities for students, the faculty, and the community at large.
- Renewable Energy or Science Related Field Trips: Successful submissions will include transportation, admission, or expenses associated with field trips that excite students about science, energy, careers in energy and the environment.
- Green Your School Projects: Successful submissions will include energy efficiency upgrades, energy monitoring systems, and communication tools that will promote energy education and smart energy use at the school and in the community.
- Professional Development/Service Learning Projects/ Workforce Development Programs: Successful submissions will include projects that expand the teacher’s knowledge about renewable energy, energy resources and/or the future of the energy industry. High Schools and Community colleges may consider using the funding to create programs and curriculum to address workforce development in the growing renewable and efficiency industry and service learning opportunities in the local community.

Online grant application: <http://www.need.org/pgesolarschools/big.htm>

Captain Planet Foundation Grants

Deadlines: March 31, 2010

<http://captainplanetfoundation.org/>

The Captain Planet Foundation provides grants to support hands-on environmental projects. The objective of the Foundation is to encourage innovative programs that empower children and youth around the world to work individually and collectively to solve environmental problems in their neighborhoods and communities. Grant rewards up to \$2,500 are available.

NEA Foundation Green Grants

Deadline: June 1, 2010

<http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/educators/grant-programs/nea-foundation-green-grants/>

With \$150,000 in new grant funding designated for projects that integrate green-related topics and experiences into the classroom, the NEA Foundation is growing its Learning & Leadership and Student Achievement grants program for individuals and teams of educators.

Public school educators are eligible to apply for individual grants worth up to \$5,000 for the development and implementation of ideas, techniques, and approaches for teaching “green” concepts.

Student Contests

U.S. EPA Launches National Environmental Video Competition – Feb. 16, 2010

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is sponsoring a video contest that challenges filmmakers and students to produce short, creative videos that highlight the “Three R’s” of individual consumption: reduce, reuse, recycle. The EPA expects to award cash prizes up to \$2,500 and will be accepting video submissions through February 16, 2010. To apply go to: <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/wycd/video.htm>

The competition *“Our Planet, Our Stuff, Our Choice”* calls for short, creative videos that examine consumption and recycling and offer community based solutions. “What we buy, use, and throw away contributes over 40% of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States,” said Jeff Scott, the EPA’s director of the Waste Management Division for the Pacific Southwest Region. “We want to get the message out about how important it is for each of us to take personal action to help the environment.”

Entries should be 30-60 seconds in length and promote steps individuals and organizations can take to minimize negative environmental impacts within their communities on the following topics:

- Reducing and Reusing, Recycling, and Composting
- Consumption and its effect on environmental footprint

Quik Science Music Challenge

Submissions Due: February 19, 2010

We are asking Southern California students to create an original and inspirational song about the ocean. Each song must be between 2 – 5 minutes in length and must be an original piece of work. The Quik Science Music Challenge is offering two prizes of \$500 for each category of Best Song with Lyrics and Best Instrumental Piece. Students can enter by visiting our website: http://www.usc.edu/org/cosee-west/quikscience/music_winners.html

Call for Young Eco-Hero Nominations and Applications

Deadline: February 28, 2010

Calling all Young Eco-Heroes for this annual Action For Nature juried contest. Cash prizes and other gifts are awarded to young people, 8 to 16 years of age, who have initiated and achieved outstanding environmental success, and whose efforts will inspire others. Guidelines and application form available on the Web site. Nominations encouraged. To apply, visit <http://www.actionfornature.org/>

The American Museum of Natural History's Young Naturalist Awards

Applications due by March 1, 2010

The Young Naturalist Awards program invites students in grades 7-12 to plan and conduct their own scientific investigations that include questions, hypotheses, and trips into the field to gather data. Students will then write about their investigations in essays that include artwork and/or photographs that help illustrate their findings. The website includes information on incorporating this award into the science curriculum. [Learn more](http://www.amnh.org/nationalcenter/youngnaturalistawards/index.html)
<http://www.amnh.org/nationalcenter/youngnaturalistawards/index.html>

Arbor Day Poster Contest

<http://www.arborday.org/kids/postercontest/>

Postmark Deadline: March 1, 2010

The poster contest is open to all California fifth graders. The theme is "Trees are Terrific...in Cities and Towns!" In addition to the poster contest, lesson plans are available to educators to use in the classroom, with homeschoolers and afterschool programs. These activities help increase students' knowledge of how trees grow and the environmental benefits trees provide every day. Activities correlate with the California Science and Visual Arts Standards.

This year's theme, "Trees are Terrific ... And Energy Wise!" was chosen because it helps students better understand how trees can be used to cut down on energy costs and help the environment. This is the second time the Arbor Day Foundation has selected this theme since the poster contest began in 1992.

To request a free curriculum kit, visit the website or contact Kay Antunez at 916-653-7958 or Kay.Antunez@fire.ca.gov

Junior Duck Stamp Program Art Contest

Deadline: March 15, 2010

Open to students grades K - 12

<http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck>

The California Waterfowl Association teams with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to educate youth (K-12) about wetlands and waterfowl through this program. Youth are invited to participate in a free annual art competition that helps tie together lessons on animal form and function, plant science, observation, wetland habitats, and more. The website has rules, entry forms, and free teaching materials.

International Children's Painting Competition

Deadline: April 15, 2010

The United Nations Environment Programme's International Children's Painting Competition invites young people (ages 6-14) to submit their paintings on the theme to the relevant UNEP Regional Office. This year's theme is **Biodiversity: Connecting with Nature**. The competition encourages children from all parts of the world to focus on particular environmental issues and how these issues affect their communities. Regional winners will be announced on World Environment Day, June 5, 2010. The regional first prize winners will each receive a cash prize and a trip for themselves and an accompanying adult to the Tunza International Children's Conference in Aichi, Japan, August 2010.

For more information, visit <http://www.unep.org/tunza/children/inner.asp?ct=co>

This is the end of the February 2010 Region 8 CREEC Newsletter