

Central Coast CREEC

Linking Central Coast Teachers with Quality Environmental Education Resources

January 2008

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

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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

First Annual Green California Schools Summit in Pasadena December 4 – 6, 2007

The greening of California schools is taking place, and this annual summit proved that point very strongly! An amazing array of school suppliers, entrepreneurs, organizations, agencies and companies with "green" goods and services assembled to showcase their wares to school district personnel, educators and other interested parties. The CREEC Network was there to provide a workshop and a display table to let folks know about "green curriculum" resources, including EEI. You can download a copy of this two-page resource guide on the CREEC Region 8 homepage (www.creec.org/region8).

The conference consisted of 5 strands: 1. Why "Go Green," 2. Building Design & Construction, 3. School Operations, 4. Financing Options, and 5. Creating a Green Culture. In California, Proposition 1D, a \$10.4 billion dollar statewide school bond measure passed in November 2006, was the "hot topic" discussed at many sessions. The bond allocates \$100 million of incentive grants for green, or "high performance," K-12 schools - the first time that a state has earmarked bond funds for green school design. The Department of General Services' Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) announced on October 3, 2007 that regulations have been approved to allow it to begin the process of awarding \$100 million in High Performance Incentive Grants (Prop 1D) to California schools. The program will fund new construction, modernizations and relocatables that utilize CHPS' Criteria to promote the efficient use of water, natural resources and energy, and also provide superior indoor air quality, acoustics, and lighting. To learn more, go to Collaborative for High Performing Schools (CHPS) website at: <http://www.chps.net>

The conference is already scheduled for next year, December 9 & 10, 2008 at the Anaheim Convention Center. The conference website is: <http://www.green-technology.org/gcschools/index.html>

There is also a Green California Summit for local and state government agencies to "go green" on April 7 – 9, 2008 at the Sacramento Convention Center. You can visit this website at: <http://www.green-technology.org/gcsummit/index.html>

EE Resources

Education and the Environment Initiative (EEI) Posted Units

New draft Education and the Environment Initiative (EEI) curriculum units are now available on the web for review. These posted units are in draft form, have been reviewed by content experts for technical accuracy, and are now being field tested by teachers in California. Additional draft units will be posted as soon as they are available and will remain on the web for 30 days. Currently there is a Second Grade and a Fifth Grade unit available to download.

<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Education/EEI/Curriculum/Default.htm#CurriculumUnits> to view the latest available units. Currently, the posted units are:

- 1) **Second Grade, Science Standard 2.4.1.** will be posted until 01/17/2008

From Field to Table

Describe food productions and consumption long ago and today, including the roles of farmers, processors, distributors, weather and land & water resources.

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- 2) **Fifth Grade, Science Standard 5.3.b** will be posted until 01/17/2008 *Changing States – Water, Natural Systems, and Human Communities*. Students know when liquid vapor in the air evaporates it turns into water vapor in the air and can reappear as a liquid when cooled or as a solid if cooled below the freezing point of water.

Two University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Online Courses

For a registration form, go to

<http://www.uwsp.edu/natres/rwilke/eetap/>
or contact Angela Lemar (Angela.Lemar@uwsp.edu).

Participants may obtain three undergraduate or graduate credits from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. The courses are also offered as non-credit workshops for those who are not seeking college credit.

Fundamentals of Environmental Education Online Course

February 4 – April 18, 2008

This course provides educators with the knowledge and skills necessary to incorporate quality environmental education into their instruction. Participants discuss the history, definition, and goals of environmental education; and develop an understanding of the professional roles and instructional methods of environmental educators.

Applied Environmental Education Program Evaluation Online Course

February 18 – May 9, 2007

The course is designed to assist environmental educators and natural resource professionals in evaluating their education programs. Participants have the opportunity to develop and apply skills in designing evaluation tools such as surveys, observation forms, and interview and focus group guides.

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

MARINE SCIENCE SEMINARS at CAMP OCEAN PINES in CAMBRIA, CA and AVILA BEACH MARINE INSTITUTE in AVILA BEACH, CA

Lectures for the general public will be held on 5 Friday nights in Cambria, and on Saturday nights at the Avila Beach Marine Institute. At \$5/person, these lectures are cheaper than a movie, and much better for your mind! Lecture tickets available at www.campoceanpines.org or by calling 805-927-0254. Learning from scientists directly involved in the research is a unique opportunity – we hope you will join us!

January 11-13, 2008 Elephant Seals – Burney le Boeuf

January 18-20, 2008 TOPP Overview - Randy Kochevar

January 25-28, 2008 Pelagic Birds - Scott Shaffer

February 1-3, 2008 Humbolt Squid - Bill Gilly

February 8-10, 2008 Turtles, Sharks, Tuna – George Shillinger

Squid Workshop

Teachers and naturalists can sign up for a "professional development" weekend at Camp Ocean Pines for an "inside look" at the giant squid with Bill Gilly, followed by tips for classroom squid dissections! Sign up now! Cost: \$195 per person: includes two nights lodging & five delicious meals. Register online or by phone (805) 927-0254

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
Ocean Exploration and Research Program

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

for Science Teachers Grades 6-12



*Learning Ocean Science through
Ocean Exploration Curriculum*
(Part I of II)

Saturday, January 26, 2008

8:00 am – 3:30 pm

in partnership with

San Diego County Office of Education

hosted by SeaWorld San Diego, San Diego

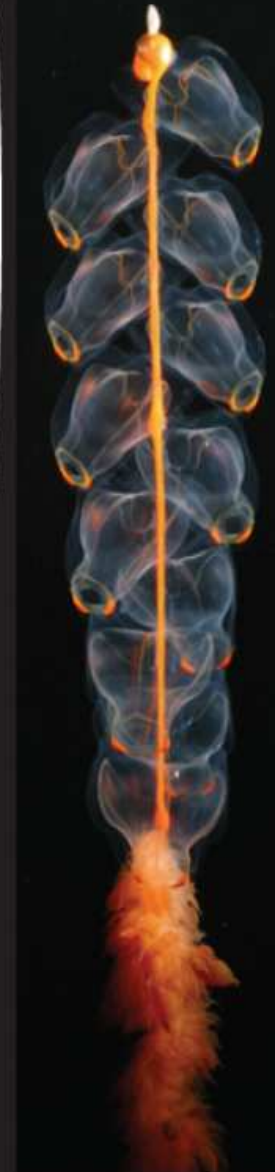
From bioluminescent corals to deep vent worms, from tropical underwater volcanoes to the Arctic Ocean floor, we know more about the Moon than our ocean. Bring the excitement of current ocean science discoveries to your students using NOAA Ocean Exploration lesson plan activities and the Ocean Explorer Web site (www.oceanexplorer.noaa.gov). Join NOAA Ocean Exploration Program Facilitator Stacia Fletcher as you do inquiry- and standards-based activities tied directly to real ocean expeditions. Experience these multidisciplinary ocean discovery voyages using "new technological eyes" to study earth and life science on the ocean floor. Use these inquiry-based activities in biology, earth, physical, and marine science courses to connect your students to the excitement of NOAA Ocean Exploration as they travel from the Galapagos Rift to the Arctic Ocean, from Alaskan and New England seamounts to those in the Hawaiian Islands.

Participants will receive a continental breakfast; lunch; the curriculum, *Learning Ocean Science through Ocean Exploration*, with CD-ROM's; Certificates of Participation; and more. This is the first of a two-part workshop series. The second workshop will be on March 1, 2008. During the follow-up workshop, educators will have an opportunity to share their use of OE activities and the Web site, participate in additional lesson plan activities, receive additional materials to support these lessons, and receive updated information about NOAA Ocean Exploration expeditions. Educators participating in both workshops will receive a \$100 stipend.

Registration Deadline is January 11, 2008.

To register:

Go to www.creec.org/region9a and click "for teachers" and fill out the registration form in the "Upcoming Events" section, or e-mail the registration form to Adrienne Marriott: creec9a@hotmail.com, or fax the registration form to Adrienne Marriott at (858) 569-5482.



Physoned siphonophore Copyright 2005 by Kevin Rankoff



California Island Symposium – February 5 – 7, 2008 in Oxnard

The 7th California Islands Symposium will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Oxnard from February 5-7, 2008. The Symposium is a forum for presentation of natural and cultural resource information collected on all the California Islands, from the Farallones to the Baja Mexico islands. Topics include education, anthropology, archeology, population biology, ecology, geology, paleontology, oceanography, climatology, and resource protection.

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Full conference registration is \$180. Single-day and student registrations are also available. For general Symposium information go to www.californiaislands.org. To access registration directly go to www.georgewright.org/CIS_registration.html.

The deadline for online registration is **January 15, 2008**. After that date all registration is on-site when the conference begins. More information is listed in the "Conferences" section of this newsletter.

Garden Based Learning Workshops – San Luis Obispo County

Registrations are still open for session #2 and #3 of the GBL workshops to be held in January and March. The January dates are January 16 for South County/SLO educators and January 22 for the North County educators. To register please go online to:

http://cesanluisobispo.ucdavis.edu/Master%5FGardener/Garden_Based_Learning.htm

Delicious Education – Garden, Kitchen & Community as Classroom Seminar

Monday through Wednesday, February 4-6, 2008

Fee: \$300 for tuition, breakfasts, and lunches

Seminar runs from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm each day.

Website: <http://www.ecoliteracy.org/seminars/index.html>

Location: Center for Ecoliteracy, 2528 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley, California

The Chez Panisse Foundation and the Center for Ecoliteracy have designed a three-day seminar to support teachers who want to embed hands-on instruction into the academic classroom, using the kitchen, garden, and community as the context for learning. The seminar is designed to help teachers balance the tensions between teaching to standards and creating robust experiential learning opportunities for students.

The first day will be facilitated by the Center for Ecoliteracy with a focus on the links between food, health, culture and environment - on both personal and classroom levels. Participants will explore and discuss core ecological principles, then investigate how the principles come to life in the classroom and community.

Second and third days will be led by the Chez Panisse Foundation and will expand the focus on classroom instruction, curriculum development and design. We will build on day one and lead participants through the process of designing hands-on lessons that take into account academic standards and experiential learning. Day two will include a site visit to the Edible Schoolyard at Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School.

Rethinking Food, Health and the Environment: Making Learning Connections

The Center for Ecoliteracy and Teachers College Columbia University presents a five-day professional development institute in Berkeley, CA **June 23 – 27, 2008**

Website: <http://www.ecoliteracy.org/seminars/index.html>

Who should apply?

Teams from school districts and public or private elementary or middle schools that are incorporating fresh and healthy foods into their school meals, and want to create learning connections between their school food environments and curriculum in the classroom.

What will be covered?

Teams participating in the institutes will develop specific implementation plans for their schools or districts, applying CEL's Rethinking School Lunch planning framework (RSL) and the Linking Food and the Environment (LiFE) Curriculum Series for science and nutrition education. Developed by Teachers College, LiFE features inquiry-based activities that integrate the study of food, food systems, and environmental and personal health.

The institutes will include seminars on the latest research in nutrition and sustainable education; how-to sessions with leading practitioners; field trips to regional farms and schools engaged in rethinking school food; and opportunities to share experiences and model the practices of a learning community.

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What kinds of teams would benefit?

Applications are encouraged from teams representing schools and districts committed to joining the nationwide effort to improve student health through improved school meal experiences linked to the formal learning day. An ideal team would include 3-5 members from the following:

- Administrators, teachers, food service directors, garden and kitchen classroom coordinators, school board members, parents, community members.

About the project

The professional development institutes are part of the CEL-TC joint project, Rethinking Food, Health and the Environment: Making Learning Connections, supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

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

Community Events

Kern Audubon Gathering

TUES. JANUARY 8, 2008 -- 7:00pm

Kern Co. Supt of Schools, 17th & L Streets, Bakersfield

"Kern National Wildlife Refuge" -- Jihadda Govan, Guest Speaker

The Kern National Wildlife Refuge is one of the significant wintering habitats in the Southern San Joaquin Valley for waterfowl and water birds. Located in the historic Tulare Lake Basin, which was once covered by an inland lake of over a half million acres, the KNWR has restored and maintains native habitat as well as a series of dikes that provide water and habitat for several endangered species as well as migrating shorebirds and waterfowl. Jihadda Govan, refuge biologist, will be speaking about the refuge and the wide variety of birds that can be seen during the winter months.

Marine Science Seminars in Cambria, Jan/Feb 08

Camp Ocean Pines is hosting 5 leading marine science researchers who will present Friday and Saturday night lectures. The Central Coast is an unspoiled place to study the incredible Pacific Ocean. Each winter we have front row seats for the elephant seal breeding and birthing spectacle! I invite teachers to bring a school group to Camp Ocean Pines or individuals to take a personal weekend retreat at Cambria Pines Lodge to learn the latest ocean research from the experts.

January 11-13, 2008 "Extreme Biology of the Northern Elephant Seal"

Dr. Burney Le Boeuf, internationally known elephant seal researcher and author, is the Associate Vice Chancellor for Research at UC Santa Cruz. As our featured scientist, Dr. Le Boeuf will discuss the impressive growth of the population of northern elephant seals and foraging migrations from the extreme limits of the breeding range. Join him to learn how scientists continue gathering information about the fascinating life of the northern elephant seal.

- Friday Lecture Jan 11 at the Cambria Vets Hall 7 pm
- Saturday Lecture Jan 12 at Avila Beach Marine Institute 7 pm

January 18-20, 2008 "Tagging of Pacific Predators"

Dr. Randy Kochevar loves the ocean! He developed "Mysteries of the Deep" for the Monterey Bay Aquarium, and was the first outreach coordinator for the Tagging of Pacific Predators program, which began in 2000 to assess and explain the patterns of life in the oceans. He will talk about the 22 species of animals that have been tagged, including elephant seals, white sharks, turtles, squid, and birds, sharing how this research is opening our eyes to the amazing animals that live in the ocean and how we can use this information to better protect the endangered species among them.

- Friday Lecture Jan 18 at the Cambria Vets Hall 7 pm
- Saturday Lecture Jan 19 at Avila Beach Marine Institute 7 pm

January 25-27, 2008 "Migrations of the Sooty Shearwater"

Dr. Scott A. Shaffer, a research biologist and lecturer at UC Santa Cruz, is focusing his studies on seabirds, especially albatrosses, petrels, boobies, and gulls. This work has taken him to sub-Antarctic islands in the Indian Ocean and New Zealand as well as islands in the Northwest Hawaiian Island chain. In addition to his experience studying seabirds, Dr. Shaffer has been involved in research on Beluga whales, fur seals, Antarctic seals, California sea lions, and a variety of other bird species including penguins, auks, ravens, and shorebirds.

Come and hear his stories and research results.

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- Friday Lecture Jan 25 at Camp Ocean Pines 7 pm
- Saturday Lecture Jan 26 at Avila Beach Marine Institute 7 pm

February 1-3 2008 "The Humboldt Squid"

Dr. William Gilly is a Professor of Marine and Organismal Biology at Stanford University's Hopkins Marine Lab. He saw his first live squid in 1974 and went on to study the behavior and biology of squid for more than three decades! Recently he has been studying Humboldt squid (which can reach to 8 feet long overall and weigh over 100 pounds) by applying electronic tags to learn about their vertical and horizontal migrations. Come hear about these predators living in cold, dark waters where oxygen levels are low, and how they, in turn, are preyed upon by marlin, swordfish, sperm whales and other deep-diving marine mammals. Science teachers can sign up for a weekend at the camp to be guided through a jumbo Humboldt squid dissection!

- Friday Lecture Feb 1 at the Cambria Vets Hall 7 pm
- Saturday Lecture Feb 2 at Avila Beach Marine Institute 7 pm

February 8-10 2008 "Leatherback Turtles, Sharks, Tuna"

George Shillinger is a Stanford University researcher applying his discoveries to improve the conservation and management of leatherback sea turtles, sharks, tuna, and billfish. George is a doctoral candidate at Stanford University. He holds an MBA from Yale, an MS in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Stanford. The leatherback sea turtle has seen over 90% decline in the Pacific within the last 20 years. George's satellite tagging data provides an improved understanding about the influence of environmental conditions on animal behavior. Students learn scientific processes and follow his research subjects through the "GreatTurtleRace.com."

- Friday Lecture Feb 8 at the Cambria Vets Hall 7 pm
- Saturday Lecture Feb 9 at Avila Beach Marine Institute 7 pm

For more information, contact Chris Cameron, Director, Camp Ocean Pines 805-927-0254 (805-927-0254) or check out the Camp Ocean Pines website at www.campoceanpines.org

National Environmental Education Week – April 13-19, 2008

Over 100 educational institutions have already registered to participate in National Environmental Education Week, April 13- 19, 2008. In conjunction with the start of the school year in September, EE Week will launch a



National Environmental Education Week

redesigned website featuring standards-based K-12th grade activities and lesson plans, professional development opportunities, and a Promotional Toolkit with printable flyers, sample announcements, and template press releases. The 2008 theme will also be announced, so stay tuned for further details! If you work with children in a school, nature center, zoo, museum, aquarium, or other educational institution, you can join EE Week's efforts and gain national exposure for your work. To register for EE Week (it only takes 5 minutes and is free) go to www.EEWeek.org/register.htm. All inquiries about EE Week can be directed to EEWeek@neefusa.org or 202-261-6484.

Arbor Day Festivities in City of San Luis Obispo – April 26, 2008

San Luis Obispo is celebrating its 25th Anniversary as a Tree City USA on April 26 at Laguna Lake Park Commemorative Tree Grove. We will plant trees, showcase the art and poetry contest and announce our new Heritage Trees for the City. Come to this public event from 9am to 12noon.

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

Contests & Grants

Coastal Art & Poetry Contest

Deadline January 31, 2008

California K-12 students are open to submit artwork or poetry that has a coastal or marine theme to compete for \$100 gift certificates to an art supply store or bookstore. Each winner's sponsoring teacher will receive a \$40 gift certificate for educational supplies. For rules and entry form, visit

www.coastforyou.org



Toyota Tapestry Grants Deadline January 28, 2008

Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A. Inc., and the National Science Teachers Association are pleased to announce the 18th Annual Toyota TAPESTRY Grants for Science Teachers Program. The program is open to middle and high school science teachers who teach at least two science classes a day and to elementary classroom teachers who teach at least some science in the classroom. This year, Toyota will offer grants to 70 to 82 teams of teachers. A total of 50 large grants of up to \$10,000 each will be awarded, along with 20 to 32 mini grants of up to \$2,500 each. All proposals must be submitted online via the link at the Toyota TAPESTRY website at

<http://www.nsta.org/pd/tapestry/>.

The American Forest & Paper Association Recycling Awards <https://paperrecyclingawards.org/>

Deadline: January 31, 2008

These awards encourage and recognize outstanding recycling programs that promote the recovery of high quality paper. The School Recycling Awards recognize schools that have implemented successful recycling programs. A \$2,000 prize and framed original artwork are given to the winning school.

Leaf-It-To-Us Grants Available from CAL FIRE



Leaf-It-To-Us is designed to assist children in becoming motivated to care for and improve their educational environment. The purpose of the program is to distribute funds for community school tree-planting projects involving school children. \$75,000 will be distributed in the form of reimbursement grants to schools and their associated volunteer organizations or nonprofit organizations in association with a school and educational program. The application deadline is January 12, 2008. For more information, please visit <http://www.ufe.org/> and check under the *grant information*.

California Fertilizer Foundation School Garden Grants

Deadline: January 15, 2008

The California Fertilizer Foundation provides direct funding to California schools for garden projects. The gardens provide an opportunity for students, teachers and parents to truly "grow" together. Twenty-four \$1,200 grants for garden projects are available to schools throughout California. At the end of each year, winning schools can re-apply for a progress grant of \$1,500 and a free agricultural field trip.

To learn more, and to apply, visit www.calfertilizer.org.

Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence

<http://www.amgen.com/citizenship/aaste.html>

Nomination Deadline: January 31, 2008

Amgen invites educators with a minimum of three years teaching science in grades K-12 to apply for this award. Each year, 19 science teachers are awarded an unrestricted cash award of up to \$5,000 for their creativity, effectiveness, motivation, and teaching ability. As winners, their schools also receive a restricted grant of up to \$5,000 to be used to expand or enhance the school's science program, purchase new science resources, or further the professional development of their science teachers.

The Amgen Scholars Program, a partnership of the Amgen Foundation

<http://www.amgen.com/citizenship/overview.html> the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and universities around the United States, is now accepting applications for the summer of 2008.

The annual program provides undergraduates the opportunity for hands-on research at a leading university to explore an area of research under a faculty mentor beyond what they may be able to do as part of their regular

undergraduate education. For more information and/or an application form, visit the program's Web site.

RFP Link: <http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/10010362/amgenscholars>

Igniting Creative Energy National Student Challenge

<http://www.ignitingcreativeenergy.org/>

Deadline: January 31, 2008

The Igniting Creative Energy Challenge is an educational competition designed to encourage students to learn more about energy conservation and the environment. Entries must reflect the theme "Igniting Creative Energy" and demonstrate an understanding of what an individual, family or group can do to make a difference in their home or community. Students may express their ideas in the form of science projects, essays, stories, artwork, photographs, music, video, or website projects. They may also submit recent service projects or results from Energy Patrol activities.

Toshiba America Grants

<http://www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/home/default.jsp>

Large Grant Applications for grades 7-12 are due February 1, 2008.

Toshiba America Foundation contributes to the quality of science and mathematics education in the U.S. with a variety of grants. The foundation focuses its grants on inquiry-based projects designed by individual teachers and small teams of teachers for use in their own classrooms. Teachers are encouraged to contact the Toshiba Foundation directly before applying.

River of Words Art and Poetry Contest

<http://www.riverofwords.org/contest/index.html>

Postmark Deadline: February 15, 2008

River of Words is an international environmental poetry and art contest on the theme of watersheds. The contest is open to youth ages 5 – 19. The contest is designed to help youth explore the natural and cultural history of the place they live, and to express, through poetry and art, what they discover.

Arbor Day Poster Contest

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

Deadline: March 1, 2008

The poster contest is open to all California fifth graders. The theme for 2008 is "Trees are Terrific...Inside and Out!" To request a free curriculum kit, visit the website or contact Kay Antunez at 916-653-7958 or Kay.Antunez@fire.ca.gov

National Association of Biology Teachers Awards

<http://www.nabt.org/sites/S1/index.php?p=290>

Nomination Deadline: March 15, 2008

The National Association of Biology Teachers recognizes excellence in teaching with a variety of awards, including the Ecology/ Environmental Science Teaching Award, and Award for Excellence in Encouraging Equity.

Christopher Columbus Awards

<http://www.christophercolumbusawards.com/>

Postmark Deadline: March 17, 2008

The Christopher Columbus Awards is a national, community-based science and technology program for middle school students. The program challenges the students to work in teams of three to four, with an adult coach, to identify a problem in their community and apply the scientific method to create an innovative solution to that problem. Our finalist teams and their coaches will receive an all-expense-paid trip to Walt Disney World® to attend National Championship Week and compete for valuable U.S. Savings Bonds plus a \$200 development grant to further refine their idea. One team will receive a \$2,000 U.S. Savings Bond and a plaque for each team member.

Intel Schools of Distinction Program to Honor Excellence in Math and Science Education

<http://www.intel.com/community/index.htm>

Deadline: February 14, 2008

Every year, Intel honors U.S. schools that have demonstrated excellence in math and science education as Intel Schools of Distinction. One elementary, one middle, and one high school in each of two categories -- math and science -- receive \$10,000 cash grants and more than \$100,000 in products and services from sponsors. One of the six winning schools is chosen as the Star Innovator and receives an additional \$15,000 grant from the Intel Foundation.

In order to be considered as an Intel School of Distinction, schools must develop an environment and curricula that meet or exceed benchmarks, including national mathematics and science content standards. Visit the program's Web site for complete program information and application instructions. RFP Link: <http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/10010363/schoolsdistinct>

More Contest & Grant Opportunities can be found on the CREEC 8 website in the "Funding Opportunities" and Student Contests" links.

Conferences

California Islands Symposium – Oxnard February 5 – 7, 2008

The 7th California Islands Symposium will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Oxnard from February 5-7, 2008. The Symposium is a forum for presentation of natural and cultural resource information collected on all the California Islands, from the Farallones to the Baja Mexico islands.

Topics include education, anthropology, archeology, population biology, ecology, geology, paleontology, oceanography, climatology, and resource protection. The deadline for online registration is January 15, 2008. After that date all registration is on-site when the conference begins.

For those who can't attend the full conference, the Tuesday evening poster session offers a unique opportunity to meet researchers and learn more about their work. Each author uses a 4' x 6' format to present research and findings. The authors are available at their posters for the full session. This event offers a chance to increase your knowledge and provides new, cutting-edge resources to use as you develop classroom units on the Channel Islands.

The poster session is on Tuesday, February 5, 2008. It runs from 5:30 to 8:00 pm. There is a special \$10 rate for attendance at this event only. We hope this special rate category allows many local educators to attend.

Full conference registration is \$180. Single-day and student registrations are also available. For general Symposium information go to www.californiaislands.org. To access registration directly go to www.georgewright.org/CIS_registration.html.

2008 AEOE Statewide Conference – April 25-27, 2008



The Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education
tmurgatroyd@ymca.org.

Save the date: AEOE goes back to Malibu and Camp Hess Kramer on April 25-27 for its 2008 Statewide Conference, "UNLESS We Care." We love this site for its beauty, great facilities, and convenient location (even when driving from northern California). If you are interested in volunteering for the conference committee or presenting a workshop, contact Tara at

More Conferences can be found on the CREEC 8 Website in the "EE Calendar" or "For Providers" links.

EE Provider Highlight – Volunteer Training Opportunities:

Wilderness Youth Project

Volunteer Training January 12 10am- 4pm Skofield Park, Santa Barbara

For folks who are interested in volunteering with us or who are already volunteering with us, this will be an opportunity to learn more about our work, philosophy, and to nurture our relationships with one another. We will share our story with you and our looking forward to hearing yours. This is a great opportunity to share your gifts for the benefit of future generations, to challenge yourself and see what it is like to mentor and to be mentored by each other and the natural world.

<http://wyp.org/programs/volunteertraining.htm>

**Central Coast Natural History Association and State Parks Announce:
New Docent Training for State Parks Docents – Morro Bay**

Training for new apprentice San Luis Obispo State Park District Docents begins Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008, and continues the following two Saturdays, Feb. 2 and Feb. 9, 2008. The first session will be at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Session II will be at Pismo Nature Center, on Pier Ave. in Oceano, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Session III will be at the Spooner Ranch House at Montana de Oro State Park from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. New Docents are expected to attend all 3 sessions. Volunteers who do not wish to become Docents are welcome to attend any session.

Please register by January 18, 2008. To do so, or for more information, please call Carolyn Frank, Docent Training Coordinator at (805) 528-8578 or call the Museum front desk at 772-2694 ext. 0 between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Visit our website at: <http://www.ccnha.org>

San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden Children's Docent Training – February 2008

Join the dedicated team of people who conduct school tours for classroom groups coming to field trips at the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden. Docent Training is four afternoon sessions, February 5, 12, 19, & 26 from 1:00 to 5:00pm at the Preview Garden located in El Chorro Regional Park in San Luis Obispo. The Children's Docents will be trained to deliver standards-based educational tours for Pre School to Sixth Grade. Tour topics include: Five Senses Tour, Plant Parts Tour, Plant Growth Needs Tour, Mediterranean Plant Adaptations, Pollination Tour, CA Natives Tour, Mediterranean World Ethnobotany Tour and the Learning from the Land Tour. Come join us! Contact, Teresa Lees, Education Coordinator at tlees@slobg.org or 805-541-1400 x304. The Botanical Garden website is: www.slobg.org

This newsletter is a monthly publication of the California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC) Network for Region 8. The CREEC Network is administered by the California Department of Education, Environmental Education Program, in partnership with numerous agencies and locally the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education
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