



Central Coast CREEC

Linking Central Coast Teachers with Quality Environmental Education Resources

January 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
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Have a newsletter submission?

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CREEC 8 Coordinator
tlees@slocoe.org
805-782-7265
www.creec.org/region8

EE Success Stories

Education & the Environment Initiative (EEI) Units Approved for Adoption!

The California State Board of Education unanimously approved the adoption of the Education and the Environment Initiative Curriculum on Wednesday, January 6, 2010. The goal of EEI is to increase environmental literacy for California K-12 students by teaching Science and History-Social Science academic content standards to mastery within an environmental context. EEI is a unique opportunity to formally include environment-based education into California's classrooms. PDF versions of all 85 units are available to download at: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/education/eei/curriculum/>



Westlake High School (Ventura County) wins "Green Your School" Contest from the School Conservation Association sponsored by NBC Universal Foundation

"Student for Solar Schools" installed solar panels at Westlake High Schools and created an online network and resource center. They have raised over \$5,200 for the panels, negotiated free installation, confirmed the weight bearing capacity of the roof, gained the approval of the schools board and engaged the community in the project. They also had a booth at the 2008 Thousand Oak's Earth Day Fair and made presentations to area elementary and middle schools. Congratulations!

CREEC Network EE Provider Reception – Ventura County January 27, 2010

Come gather with fellow Environmental Education Providers in the CREEC Network at the Patagonia Offices in downtown Ventura on Wednesday, Jan. 27th at 4:30pm – 6:30pm. This event is being co-sponsored by the Ventura County Resource Conservation District's Outreach Coordinator, Mary Maranville. Our guest speakers will be Celeste Royer, State Director of the CREEC Network giving all an update on EEI and Paul Jenkins from the Ventura Chapter of Surfrider. **The location is the Patagonia Offices located on 259 West Santa Clara St. at the Lost Arrow Corporate Administrative Offices in the Conference Room located in the Firehouse building which is the building nearest the Main St. upper parking lot.** Please make your RSVPs with Mary Maranville at mary.maranville@vcrd.org. The Patagonia Rep is Kim Stroud and in case you come late and get locked out her cell phone is 798-3600.

There will also be EE Provider receptions for Santa Barbara County on February 24, 2010 and in Kern County on March 24, 2010. Please mark your calendars now!

EE Resources

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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 first one for January is about the preschool EE curriculum called “Growing Up WILD” from Project WILD. 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 any new people who would like to receive a newsletter, including the one for Region 8.**

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 EEWeek.org. Need some suggestions? How about involving students in a [School Water Audit](#), a field trip to a local [nature center](#) or a lesson plan on [climate change](#)?

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. Visit our resource page on [The Water-Energy Connection](#) to learn more.

www.NatureBreak.org. Free nature education videos are available from an award-winning wildlife filmmaker, Vanessa Serrano, a wildlife biologist who has recently started a new online video series and social network for nature-lovers, called Nature Break. http://www.naturebreak.org/NatureBreak/Nature_Break.html

New NAAEE Publication to Help You Evaluate Your EE Programs **By Julie A. Ernst, Martha C. Monroe, and Bora Simmons.**

Want to evaluate your environmental education program, but unsure where to begin? NAAEE has a new resource to help you. **Evaluating Your Environmental Education Programs: A Workbook for Practitioners** walks you through how to design and conduct an evaluation. Throughout the workbook, 23 exercises ask you to check your understanding (the answers are included). In addition, 47 application exercises point you to tasks that will help you develop your own evaluation. A liberal use of case studies and examples illustrates the concepts in each chapter, and over 45 figures and tables provide graphic representations for visual learners. A case study of one program demonstrates how to use each chapter to conduct an evaluation. NAAEE members can purchase this publication at the discounted rate of \$20! To order, visit <http://www.naaee.org/evalworkbook>

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.

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Trainings & Workshops

Life Lab Training at Cal Poly SLO – January 29, 2010

The Growing Classroom curriculum training will be hosted in San Luis Obispo at Cal Poly Organic Farm. For more information contact Professor Headrick at dheadric@calpoly.edu or 756-5382 or Maria Murrieta at the Cal Poly Organic Farm.

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

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

Community Events

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.

Natural Leaders Network™ in Action

C&NN's [Natural Leaders Network](#), co-founded with the Sierra Club with additional



support from The North Face. Since its launch in 2008, NLN members have organized to take action, engage youth, and develop strategies for growing the youth voice and vision in the children and nature movement. The first regional Natural Leaders Network event, the New Mexico Natural Leaders Retreat, was held in September 2009 through the leadership of Natural Leader Rosie Williams.

http://www.childrenandnature.org/movement/naturalleaders/?utm_source=Children+%26+Nature+Network+Subscriptions&utm_campaign=da0739cb9a-Oct_News10_26_2009&utm_medium=email or simply go to:

<http://www.childrenandnature.org>

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

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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

Climate Discovery Online Courses for Educators

January 22 - March 14, 2010

Are you seeking a K-12 professional development opportunity that will enhance your qualifications, competency, and self-confidence in integrating Earth system science, climate, and global change into your science classroom? The National Center for Atmospheric Research offers a series of six- and seven-week online courses for middle and high school teachers that combine geoscience content, information about current climate research, easy to implement hands-on activities, and group discussion. The course offerings include: CD 501 Introduction to Earth's Climate; CD 502 Earth System Science: A Climate Change Perspective; and CD 503 Understanding Climate Change Today.

To register, visit <http://ecourses.ncar.ucar.edu>

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

EE Grants & Contests

Stewardship Council Grant Workshops

Each year, the staff of the Youth Investment Program conducts grant workshops to help guide prospective grantseekers in their applications to the Stewardship Council. The workshops provide background information on how the grant guidelines were created and tips and advice on how applicants can create strong applications.

January 12, 2010 – Stewardship Council Grants Workshop Bakersfield

We will be holding a Grant Seeker Workshop for the 2010 grants on Tuesday, January 12 from 3 to 6 p.m. at the California State University Bakersfield at their Leadership Development Center. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to [Manav Thapar](mailto:Manav.Thapar@stewardshipcouncil.org) at mthapar@stewardshipcouncil.org , or call 650-401-2143.

California State University Bakersfield
Leadership Development Center Room ES 402
9001 Stockdale Highway, 19AW
Bakersfield, CA 93311

Please note to park in **LOT J**, the Stewardship Council will provide a parking pass for everyone.

Stewardship Council Grants RFPs The Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council is pleased to announce that the Youth Investment Programs 2009 Grant Requests for Proposals (RFP) are now available online! In 2009, as part of its Youth Investment Program, the Stewardship Council will grant between \$2 million and \$2.5 million in funding to improve the lives of underserved youth by providing greater access to outdoor experiences — from urban parks in the city to watersheds in the wilderness. In 2000, there are four different grant funds, three rounds focused on outdoor and environmental education programs and one on building parks and playgrounds. **The four grant funds are:**

Catalyst Fund: Nurturing grassroots efforts to improve access to outdoor experiences to general operating support of emerging efforts aimed at introducing youth to outdoor activities in communities with significant need.

Impact Fund: Sparking innovation and lowering barriers to support day-to-day operations of promising programs and high-impact organizations aimed at engaging youth in outdoor activities in communities with significant needs.

Initiative Fund: Lowering the barriers to connect the youth to the outdoors to support efforts that help eliminate frequently-cited barriers to connecting youth with the outdoors.

Infrastructure Fund: Building parks and playgrounds to support substantial improvements in the infrastructure of community parks and urban open spaces that are planned and executed by established organizations that have demonstrated capacity.

The first rounds of proposals are due in February. You can find a full calendar, the [2010 Request for Proposals](#), [2010 Grantmaking Plan](#), scheduled [2010 Grant Workshops](#) on our website as well as additional [grantseeker resources](#) and answers to [Frequently Asked Questions](#). We have started a [Blog](#) to help us provide more information about our foundation and the organizations and youth that we help to support.

http://www.stewardshipcouncil.org/youth_investment/rfps_and_applications.php?v=0

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.

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California Fertilizer Foundation Grants

Deadline: January 15, 2010

<http://www.calfertilizer.org/grant.htm>

Through the garden program, CFF provides direct funding to California schools for garden projects. Over the years, they have expanded the program and are now able to annually provide 24 grants for \$1,200 each to schools throughout California (12 awarded twice a year). At the end of each year, winning schools can re-apply for a progress grant of \$1,500 and a free agricultural field trip.

The 2010 Toyota TAPESTRY Grants for Teachers Program

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

Deadline: January 18, 2010

Toyota and NSTA offer a total of \$550,000 in grants to K-12 teachers of science who wish to implement innovative, community-based science projects. Teachers may apply for large grants up to \$10,000 or mini-grants of up to \$2,500. The categories are Environmental Science Education, Physical Science Applications, and Literacy and Science Education.

Toshiba America Grants

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

Large Grant Applications for grades 7-12 are due February 1, 2010

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.

NEA Foundation Green Grants

Deadline: February 1, 2010

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.

The NEA Foundation – **Nickelodeon Big Green Help Public Education Grants** are available in the form of Student Achievement grants to K-8 public school educators. The Big Green Help Grants Program is dedicated to the development and implementation of ideas, techniques, and approaches for teaching green concepts to elementary and middle school students. The grants target environmental education as an area of great promise in helping students develop a sense of environmental stewardship. All Big Green Grants will be awarded in the amount of \$5,000.

The NEA Foundation – **Staples Foundation Green Grants** to public school educators are available in the form of both Learning and Leadership and Student Achievement grants. A collaborative effort between the Staples Foundation for Learning and the NEA Foundation, Green Grants to Public School Educators support projects that integrate green-related topics with various standards-based content areas to increase student engagement and improve academic achievement. The grant amount is \$2,000 for individual Learning and Leadership grants and \$5,000 for Student Achievement and group Learning and Leadership grants. To learn more, visit <http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/educators/grant-programs/nea-foundation-green-grants/>

Ocean Guardian Grant

Deadline: February 1, 2010

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is offering Ocean Guardian grants of \$2,000-\$6,000 to a number of California schools whose students create a school or community-based conservation project that protects their local watershed and the ocean. K-12 schools in the following counties are eligible: Marin, San Francisco, Alameda, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura. This website also offer lesson plans and videos on ocean education. For more information, visit http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education/ocean_guardian/

Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant Program

Deadline: February 12, 2010

Raise up to \$5,000 for your school in minutes. It's almost that easy when you take advantage of Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant program. Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation knows how hard people work for their kids and community. They are dedicated to helping parent-teacher groups achieve even more for schools. Apply for the Toolbox for Education Grant now and build on your success with a Lowe's grant. To apply, visit <http://toolboxforeducation.com/index.html>.

Project Orange Thumb Grants - Application deadline February 19, 2010

Groups with gardening projects geared toward community involvement, neighborhood beautification, sustainable agriculture, and/or horticultural education are invited to apply for these grants for \$1000 worth of Fiskars gardening tools and \$1000 for gardening-related materials. <http://projectorangethumb.com/pot>

Horace Mann Educator Scholarships - Application deadline March 1, 2010

The Horace Mann Companies is offering \$30,000 in scholarships for public and private school K-12 educators to take college courses. One recipient will receive \$5,000 in scholarship funds payable over four years, and fifteen other recipients will receive \$1,000 each in scholarship funds payable over two years. Twenty additional recipients will each receive one-time \$500 awards. Educators employed by U.S. public or private schools with two or more years of teaching experience are eligible to apply. [Learn more](http://www.horacemann.com/resources/scholarships/default.aspx)
<http://www.horacemann.com/resources/scholarships/default.aspx>

PG&E Bright Ideas Grants – March 20, 2010

The PG&E Solar Schools Program will award up to \$250,000 in grants to schools with Bright Ideas. The program is designed to support the understanding of renewable energy in public schools throughout northern and central California. Qualifying schools may apply for **grants of \$2,500 or \$5,000** to be used for innovative classroom and extracurricular programs that further the universe of solar science.

<http://www.pge.com/about/environment/pge/solarschools/brightideasgrants.shtml>

Student Contests

Whale Tail License Plate Contest—January 15, 2010

The California Coastal Commission is inviting artists, designers, and photographers to enter a contest to design a new WHALE TAIL license plate. Purchases of this plate in California fund marine and coastal education and conservation programs throughout the state. The deadline for entries is 5pm, Thursday, **January 15, 2010**. There is a link on the Coastal Commission website to a contest webpage that includes the guidelines and entry form, and FAQs: <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/plate/newplatecontest.html>

California Coastal Art and Poetry Contest

<http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/poster/poster.html>

For information, e-mail coast4u@coastal.ca.gov or call 800-Coast-4U.

Postmark Deadline: January 30, 2010

The California Coastal Commission invites California students in kindergarten through 12th grade to submit artwork or poetry with a California coastal or marine theme to the annual Coastal Art & Poetry Contest. Up to eight winners will be selected to win \$100 gift certificates to an art supply or book store, and each winner's sponsoring teacher will receive a \$40 gift certificate for educational supplies. All winners and honorable mentions will receive tickets for their families to visit the Aquarium of the Pacific, courtesy of the Aquarium. Students may have their work featured on Commission web pages and materials, and winning entries will be exhibited throughout the state, including at the Ford House Museum in Mendocino and the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium in San Pedro. Entries must be postmarked by January 30, 2010 to be eligible for the upcoming contest. For rules and entry form (and helpful links and tips for teachers and students), visit www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/poster/poster.html (or follow the links from www.coastforyou.org), email coast4u@coastal.ca.gov, or call (800) Coast-4U. Contest flyers (PDF or hard copy) are available upon request.

Planet Connect High School Grants - Application deadline January 20, 2009

Do you know a high school student with an innovative solution to protect the environment? Planet Connect can help make it happen! The National Environmental Education Foundation's Planet Connect Program, developed in partnership with The Weather Channel, is a new online network for High School students to learn about the environment plus green college and career options. Planet Connect is looking for creative ideas to fix local environmental problems and will award 25 students aged 14-19 \$1000 each to support their ideas and provide them with local environmental internships. [Learn more http://www.planet-connect.org](http://www.planet-connect.org)

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/>

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>

Igniting Creative Energy National Student Challenge

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

Deadline: February 19, 2010

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.

River of Words Art and Poetry Contest

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

Postmark Deadline: February 1, 2010

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. The contest is open to any child in the world, from 5-19 years of age, and there is no charge to enter. Teacher training workshops are held to help educators incorporate the contest into the curriculum.

Contact your River of Words California Coordinator for more information.

<http://www.riverofwords.org>

Mary Lee Knecht (Regional Coordinator)

Sacramento River Watershed Program

marylee@sacriver.org

327 College Street, Suite 205

Woodland, California 95695 (530) 661-3635

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

COASTKEEPER Video Contest for Marine Protected Areas – Due January 29, 2010

Schools along the Central Coast including SLO, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Ventura, Monterey and Kern Counties, grades 4 to college, are encouraged to participate in the first ever Video Contest to raise awareness of the marine protected areas in an effort to protect the scenic coastline and diverse marine life of the Central Coast.

Student entries should be a 30-second or a 60-second Public Service Announcement (PSA) video that features ways to protect one of the Central Coast Marine Protected Areas. To find out more about Marine Protected Areas go to: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/phase1.asp>.

To download the maps of Central Coast MPAs go to:

http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/pdfs/ccmpas_guide.pdf .

Entries must be received by **Friday, January 29, 2010**. Winners will be announced in mid-March. Cash prizes will be awarded to your school for one first place winner in each group (Elementary, Middle, High, College/University). To request a complete Contest Entry Packet contact: Environment in the Public Interest Center

EPI-Center, 1013 Monterey St., Suite 202
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

coastkeeper@epicenteronline.org

Ph: 805-781-9932

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

California Envirothon – March 31-April 2 at Joshua Tree

Plans are being made for the 2010 California Envirothon, which will be held March 31-April 2nd at the Joshua Tree Retreat Center in Joshua Tree, CA. We are very excited to host the event at the Center as it will be our first true "desert" location!

Pre-registration forms are due by January 15, 2010. Team registration will be \$165 per person or \$1155 for a 7-person team (team plus two advisers).

For more information go to: <http://www.caenvirothon.com/>

Remember also that this year California is hosting the 2010 Canon Envirothon International competition at California State University, Fresno August 1-6, 2010.

Teacher Awards

Rich C. Bartlett Environmental Education Award -Nomination deadline Jan. 15, 2010

The Richard C. Bartlett Environmental Education Award is awarded annually by the National Environmental Education Foundation to an outstanding educator who has successfully integrated environmental education into his or her daily education programs. The award is given to a 5th-12th grade educator who can serve as an inspiration and model for others. A \$5,000 cash award is provided for the recipient to continue his or her work in environmental education. Do you know a teacher who stands out among the rest? If so, please nominate him or her for the 2009 Richard C. Bartlett Award. [Learn more](#)

<http://www.neefusa.org/bartlettaward.htm>

Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence

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

Nomination Deadline: February 5, 2010

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.

Christopher Columbus Awards

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

Postmark Deadline: February 8, 2010

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.

Eight 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 and the \$25,000 Columbus Foundation Community Grant, plus a \$200 development grant to further refine their idea.

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