

# Education Connection



Connecting people with the environment



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- Storm Sewers: The Rivers Beneath Our Feet ..... WR460

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[dnr.wi.gov/eeek/](http://dnr.wi.gov/eeek/)



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Stay informed of upcoming DNR and DNR-related educational opportunities and resources such as grants, professional development, curricular resources and more. **Education News** will be distributed two to four times a year. To join, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/education/newsletter/>

# DNR Education Programs and Resources



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources offers many exciting programs and resources for teacher training and classroom instruction.

## Air Defenders: The Quest for Clean Air

Use this multi-media, multidisciplinary training kit to deputize children (grades 4-7) and train them for their mission – to help clean the air and protect community health. As Air Defenders, they'll learn about open burning and respiratory health through science, health, and music-based lessons.

Visit us at: <http://www.airdefenders.org>  
or contact: [DNRAirEducation@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRAirEducation@wisconsin.gov)

## Angler Education

Help kids learn about their Wisconsin fishing heritage and how to protect the waters that sustain it. A one-day workshop provides training, materials and access to fishing gear. Materials are aligned to State Academic Standards and appropriate for use in multiple educational settings. Look for us at teachers' conventions or contact our office to schedule a volunteer training workshop in your community.

Visit us at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/kidsparents/anglereducation/index.html>  
or contact: [theresa.stabo@wisconsin.gov](mailto:theresa.stabo@wisconsin.gov)

## Arbor Day Statewide Contests (for 4th & 5th grade students)

The Forestry Division and partners sponsor an annual Arbor Day Poster Contest for 5th Graders and an annual Forest Appreciation Writing Contest for 4th Graders. The contests change themes annually. Curriculum packets are sent to teachers statewide and selected artwork and essays appear in an annual Arbor-Day Earth Day Calendar.

Visit us at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/UF/awareness/>  
or contact: [laura.wyatt@wisconsin.gov](mailto:laura.wyatt@wisconsin.gov) for the poster contest and [genny.fannucchi@wisconsin.gov](mailto:genny.fannucchi@wisconsin.gov) for the writing contest

## Clean Boats, Clean Waters Story Hour

This new training video leads librarians, early childhood educators, and elementary teachers through a lesson on how to present a fun activity-based story time focusing on how everyone, even kids, can help keep Wisconsin waters free of aquatic invasive species. The video features a former kindergarten teacher demonstrating how to do the story hour. Copies of all the materials and resources you'll need to lead a story hour in your area can be found online.

Visit us at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/aquatic/cbcwstory/>  
or contact: [christal.campbell@wisconsin.gov](mailto:christal.campbell@wisconsin.gov) or 608-266-0061

## Education and Training

Visit this DNR Web page and find: Programs for Kids, Activities and Projects, Places to Go and Learn, Publications, Outdoor Skills and Safety

Education, and Adult Education and Training topics. It's also a great place to find ideas for Service Learning Projects.

Visit us at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/education/>

## EEK!—Environmental Education for Kids

Surf around this electronic magazine for kids to learn more about nature, environmental issues, and careers in natural resources. It's a great homework helper.

Visit us at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/eeek/>  
or contact: [carrie.morgan@wisconsin.gov](mailto:carrie.morgan@wisconsin.gov)

## Forest Forever ParkPacks

These mobile resource kits teach middle-school kids about sustainable forestry while sharpening their investigative skills and encouraging critical thinking processes. ParkPack lesson plans and activities are correlated with Wisconsin Academic Standards. Each teacher pack contains enough equipment for 30 students.

Visit us at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/eeek/teacher/parkpack.htm>  
or contact: [sherry.klosiewski@wisconsin.gov](mailto:sherry.klosiewski@wisconsin.gov)

## Great Lakes ParkPacks

These mobile resource kits are located at state parks and forests along Lake Michigan and Lake Superior. The four packs address themes of: Glacial Gifts; Mysteries; Survival; and Challenges. They include activities, books, and other materials.

Visit us at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/eeek/teacher/parkpack.htm>  
or contact: [sherry.klosiewski@wisconsin.gov](mailto:sherry.klosiewski@wisconsin.gov)

## Green & Healthy Schools Program

Join schools across Wisconsin in demonstrating a commitment to a sustainable Earth, stronger communities and healthier learning environments! By participating in the program, students learn about the environmental, health and safety challenges facing our schools and are given skills to address these challenges throughout their lives. The GHS Recycling Bin Grant Program gives eligible schools free recycling bins to be used in classrooms, lunchrooms, staff lounges, and hallways.

Visit us at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/greenandhealthyschools/>  
or contact: [DNRG&HSchools@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRG&HSchools@wisconsin.gov)

## Milkweed Monitoring

Check out DNR's Milkweed Monitoring pages on EEK! Students can learn to find air pollution by studying Common Milkweed leaves.

Visit us at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/eeek/teacher/milkweed.htm>  
or contact: [DNRAirEducation@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRAirEducation@wisconsin.gov)

## LEAF (Learning Experiences & Activities in Forestry)

This DNR/WCEE (UW-Stevens Point) K-12 environmental education program connects formal and non-formal Wisconsin educators with forestry education materials through teacher training, K-12 Forestry Education Lesson Guides, and the distribution of existing materials.

Visit us at: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/leaf>  
or contact: [leaf@uwsp.edu](mailto:leaf@uwsp.edu)

## Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol Program

Get involved in loosestrife control efforts! "See Cella Chow!" is a program to rear and release biological control insects and is a great way to effectively teach about plants, insects, and invasive species. The classroom teaching activities center on the biological control process. Topics range from a host-plant specificity experiment to an invasive plant art project.

Download this free guide at:  
[http://dnr.wi.gov/org/es/science/publications/ss981\\_2003.htm](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/es/science/publications/ss981_2003.htm)  
or contact: [brock.woods@wisconsin.gov](mailto:brock.woods@wisconsin.gov)

## Recreational Safety Programs

The Bureau of Law Enforcement currently has four programs that can be taught in schools: Boating Safety, Snowmobile Safety, ATV Safety and Hunter Safety. Instructors must be DNR certified. Materials and lesson plans provided.

Contact: 608-266-2142 or [julie.fitzgerald@wisconsin.gov](mailto:julie.fitzgerald@wisconsin.gov)

## School Forest Program

School forests are exceptional outdoor environmental education sites. Nearly 200 school districts have a school forest. DNR foresters provide resource management assistance and the state school forest education specialist helps schools use these sites for education.

Visit us at: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/leaf/schoolforest/>

## Snakes of Wisconsin, Amphibians of Wisconsin, and Turtles & Lizards of Wisconsin

This series of three full-color guides covers all the amphibians and reptiles of the state. They include range maps, species status, and species information. Cost: Donations of \$3 for Snakes, \$4 for Amphibians, \$4 for Turtles & Lizards and \$10 for a set of three. Make checks out to "Bureau of Endangered Resources" and note in the memo line "Herps Gift Account." Mail your order and check to BER, P. O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707, or call (608) 266-7012.

## State Park and Forest Interpretive Programs

Educators or other property staff provide on- or off-site educational programs for K-12 students. Programs may include guided hikes, hands-on activities, and property tours. Some properties provide field trip guides to assist educators in planning their own educational activities on the property.

Visit us at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/parks/interp/index.html>  
or contact: [sherry.klosiewski@wisconsin.gov](mailto:sherry.klosiewski@wisconsin.gov)

## Teachers' Guide to Wisconsin State Parks and Forests

Teachers and students can see, touch, hear, and discover the richness of Wisconsin's natural and cultural heritage at many state parks and forests. This online guide lists over 100 field trips that are correlated to Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards. Teachers will also find the information they need to select a topic, register for a field trip, and reserve additional teaching resources.

*continued on next page*

Visit us at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/parks/interp/school/index.html>

or contact: [sherry.klosiewski@wisconsin.gov](mailto:sherry.klosiewski@wisconsin.gov)

### Water Action Volunteers (WAV)

This action program focuses on stream and river education oriented to outdoor experiences. The materials are self directed and include storm drain stenciling, river clean-up programs, and volunteer stream/river monitoring.

Visit us at: <http://clean-water.uwex.edu/wav/>  
or contact: [kris.stepenuck@wisconsin.gov](mailto:kris.stepenuck@wisconsin.gov)

### Wee Recyclers Early Childhood Education Program

Help teach your children to become Wee Recyclers! Materials are designed for use with 3 to 5-year-olds in early child care settings; however, most activities can be modified for use with other age groups. The activities in the guide are simple, entertaining, hands-on and require minimal teacher preparation time. The Wee Recyclers Online Resources complement the guide with an array of supplemental materials, including posters,

recycling labels, handouts, puppet patterns and the Wee Crafts guide.

Visit us at: [www.dnr.wi.gov/eeek/teacher/weerecyclers.htm](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/eeek/teacher/weerecyclers.htm)

### Where's the Air? Kit

Download your FREE copy of DNR's Where's the Air? teachers' activity guide. Students learn how air pollution forms and how human behavior affects the quality of the air. And don't forget to order your free Where's the Air? poster (also available in Spanish) on the front of this form.

Visit us at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/eeek/teacher/wtair.htm>

or contact: [DNRAirEducation@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRAirEducation@wisconsin.gov)

### Wild and Forever Free Video

Listen and watch as DNR wildlife biologists and partners tell the unique story of Wisconsin's wild animals and wild places and how they protect and manage these rich, natural heirlooms. Appropriate for grades 6–12.

Visit us at: [marykay.salwey@wisconsin.gov](mailto:marykay.salwey@wisconsin.gov)

### Wisconsin Groundwater Study Guide

The updated Groundwater Study Guide booklet contains thirteen groundwater exercises for students in grades 6–9, plus introductory information, student worksheets, a glossary, other groundwater activity ideas, and a groundwater education resource list. Activities are correlated to DPI Wisconsin Model Academic Standards.

Visit us at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/eeek/teacher/groundwaterguide.htm>

or contact: [laura.chern@wisconsin.gov](mailto:laura.chern@wisconsin.gov)

### XRT: eXtraordinary Road Trip

eXtraordinary Road Trip: Start your computers and let the adventure begin! XRT: eXtraordinary Road Trip educational computer program enriches high school science, social studies, and driver's education classrooms about transportation and air quality. This great program will live up any classroom!

Log on to: [www.eXtraordinaryRoadTrip.org](http://www.eXtraordinaryRoadTrip.org)  
or contact: [DNRAirEducation@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRAirEducation@wisconsin.gov)

## Project Learning Tree, Project WET, and Project WILD

Materials and training are provided at professional development workshops and address current Teacher Standards. Participants will develop new skills, learn how to adapt activities to their curriculum, explore literature and technology connections, and share expertise with colleagues. Materials meet state academic standards.

Workshops for all programs are being scheduled continuously; check the schedule online at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/education/pltwildwet/>.

To get more information on the following programs or to host a group workshop at your location, contact: [dnrpltwildwet@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dnrpltwildwet@wisconsin.gov) or call (608) 264-6280.



### Project Learning Tree (PLT)

This national, award-winning environmental education program uses the forest as a "window" to study the natural and built environment. PLT's creative supplemental teaching activities are interdisciplinary with PreK–8 teaching activities and in-depth secondary modules.

#### • PLT PreK–8 Activity Guide

Can't see the forest for the trees? Project Learning Tree uses the forest as a "window on the world" to increase student understanding of our complex natural and built world. Over 95 learner-centered activities are compatible with instruction in science, social studies, language arts, environmental science, and mathematics. Each activity features a children's literature bibliography and is correlated to the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards.

#### • PLT for Seedlings

With these fun, interdisciplinary activities, children become nature detectives, dance with a tree, and take a simulated walk through a forest—complete with the sounds of the animals that live there. The activity guide and CD feature guided outdoor explorations; animal voices, dances, stories, and simulations; an annotated bibliography; art; assessments; and a topic-related snack. Correlated to the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards. Registry credits are available.

#### • PLT Secondary Modules

Bring real-life issues into the classroom with these hands-on/minds-on modules covering waste generation and disposal, environmental justice, forest ecology, and the relationship between environmental health and human health. Students will objectively examine the issues, collect and analyze data, and become involved in decision making experiences relevant to their communities. These interdisciplinary modules incorporate science, social studies, math, geography, and language arts. Modules are correlated to the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards. PLT-trained educators may purchase these guides from the state office.

### Project WET K-12 Activity Guide

Protection of Wisconsin's water resources is crucial for healthy people, healthy economies, and a healthy environment. Project WET uses over 90 hands-on, fun activities to promote water systems, quality and quantity, water management and stewardship, as well as the historical, societal, and cultural connections between water, people, and communities.

### Project WILD & Aquatic WILD K–12 Activity Guides

Kids love wildlife and that's why teachers and nonformal educators love this exciting conservation and environmental education program. Over 150 activities designed to develop awareness, knowledge, skills and commitment to result in informed decisions, responsible behavior, and constructive actions concerning aquatic and terrestrial wildlife and the environments they depend upon. Activities emphasize hands-on, inquiry-based, and cooperative learning. Project WILD also offers a secondary Science & Civics guide and service learning ideas that involve students in environmental action projects on school grounds and in the community.

For more information on these and other programs go to: <http://dnr.wi.gov/education/>

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