

THE W.A.L.L.

WE ALL LIVE AND LEARN



SPRING 2012

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FUSION NEWS	1
FEATURES	2
ALL LEVELS	3-7
ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE LEVEL	8-9
CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS & SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	10
AWARDS & COMPETITIONS	11-12
FUNDRAISERS	13
FREEBIES	14-16
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	16-19
FIELD TRIPS	20
ONLINE JOURNALS & MAGAZINES	21
Extras : New Science Teachers Academy ,IMSA FUNshops, & Fermilab Workshops	22-25

The W.A.L.L. will be published quarterly to bring you the most up-to-date opportunities. It will be broken down into several sections with selected feature opportunities at the forefront of the newsletter.

The **ALL LEVELS** section, will encompass grants that could apply to all grade levels K-12. The **ELEMENTARY LEVEL**, will list those grants specific to the elementary (4-5) levels only. The **MIDDLE LEVEL** will be grants specific to 6th-8th grades. **CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS** section will be those grants that only apply to CPS. **SOUTHERN ILLINOIS** section will serve that area. The **AWARDS & COMPETITIONS** section, will be awards and contests that you and/or your students might want to enter. The **FUNDRAISERS** section, will contain any fundraising opportunities that you might want to participate in. The **FREEBIES** section, will contain any freebies that you might want to order for your classroom. This version contains additional sections--**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, FIELD TRIPS, ONLINE MAGAZINES** and **EXTRAS** that came our way!



5 Tips and Tricks for Improving Your Grant Success

- ◆ Articulate your project down to the last detail, know the five W's: Who you are serving (target population), What you are going to do (strategies, activities), Where it will be done (location), Why you are doing it (need, goals, objectives, and intended impact) and When it will be done (timeframe- start and completion dates, if ongoing, plans for sustainability).
- ◆ Talk to the funder before submitting the application, find a common ground. Offer a classroom/school visit to see your program in action.
- ◆ Follow the directions on the application/website and give them what they ask for, no more, no less-they set the guidelines for a reason.
- ◆ Use language that anyone can understand, imagine you are having dinner with a friend who is not an educator...how would you explain your program? Watch the acronyms and spell the out if you use them.
- ◆ Submit the proposal on time! The only proposal NEVER funded, is the proposal NEVER submitted. And Remember, sometimes it takes several tries with the same funder, so don't give up!

By: Julie Christman, MSW
Grants Administrator IMSA

SAVE THE DATE

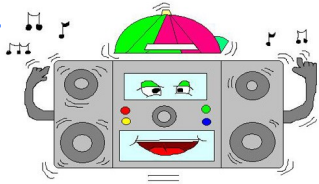
POP Workshops

Tuesday, June 5th @ IMSA

Thursday, June 21st @
Springfield

Tuesday, June 26th @ IMSA





NSTA Radio

The National Science Teachers' Association (NSTA) is pleased to introduce the new NSTA Radio on the BAM Radio Network. BAM Radio is the largest education radio network in the world offering programming from the nation's top education organizations and thought leaders. NSTA is the newest Network Partner with BAM Radio and every month will be hosting five- to seven-minute discussions on a range of topics with key leaders in science education.

<http://www.nsta.org/about/olp>
a/



Midwest Garden Grant

NGA is delighted to announce the third year of the Midwest Garden Grant program. 30 programs throughout the Midwest have received funding for the past three years providing over \$30,000 in donations to National Gardening Association to support schools and garden programming. Midwest grants will be distributed to applicants located in one of the following states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Deadline: April 1, 2012

<http://www.kidsgardening.org/grants/2012-midwest-garden-grant>



USA Science & Engineering Festival

April 28th & 29th, 2012

Building on the success of the inaugural Festival in 2010, the 2nd USA Science & Engineering Festival will inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers with school programs and nationwide contests throughout the 2011/2012 school year and a finale Expo in Washington DC on April 28-29, 2012. The Expo is the nation's largest celebration of all things science & engineering and features over 2,000 hands-on activities and over 150 performances.



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

FEATURED PROGRAM & FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

NSTA Calendar: Start the New Year With a Grant

If you're a K-12 educator who teaches students or members of your community about meteorology, you can start the new year off right by applying for a National Weather Association (NWA) Sol Hirsch Education Fund Grant. Each year, the NWA awards up to seven grants of \$750 to help educators purchase scientific materials and equipment for the classroom; establish or enhance school or community meteorology education programs; or attend accredited meteorology-related courses, workshops, or conferences.

The application period will begin in January and run through **June 1**. For more information and to apply, visit www.nwas.org/grants/solhirsch.php



FEATURED K-8 GRANT

National Park Service – A Living Classroom

The National Park Service has compiled the education resources of more than 110 national parks in a single Web site. Spanning grades K-12 the resources include virtual field trips, pre- and post-visit activities and other learning experiences that highlight each park's unique features or special environmental programs.



<http://www.nps.gov/learn/curriculum.cfm>

Join the Creek Freaks

Creek Freaks is a new river monitoring program for children ages 10-14 to learn about their local environment. Get involved by starting your own program or join an existing program. <http://www.creekfreaks.net>

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

The Nation's highest honors for teachers of mathematics and science. Awardees serve as models for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities, and leaders in the improvement of mathematics and science education. The 2012 Awards will honor math and science teachers working in grades K-6.

Applications Due: May 1, 2012

2012 http://www.paemst.org/controllers/home.cfc?method=welcome_teacher&id=



NCTM Teacher Professional Development

Grant for grades PreK-5 and 6-8 teachers. The purpose of this grant is to support professional development to improve the competence in the teaching of mathematics of one or more classroom teachers.

6-8. Link:

<http://www.nctm.org/resources/content.aspx?id=1314>

PreK-5. Link:

<http://www.nctm.org/resources/content.aspx?id=1312>

ALL LEVELS (4-8)



Earn OFFICE DEPOT Gift Cards by Recycling at School: Rolling

Through this program, your school will receive credit for any type of ink or toner cartridges that are not visibly damaged. You may also receive credit for qualifying small electronics, such as cell phones and MP3 players.

Details: <http://www.myschoolrecycles.com/>

Cedar Tree Foundation Grants: Rolling

The Cedar Tree Foundation makes grants in the following areas of concern: environmental education, environmental health and sustainable agriculture. Particular consideration is given to proposals demonstrating strong elements of environmental justice and/or conservation within the program areas listed above. Letters of inquiry accepted year-round.

Details: <http://www.cedartreefound.org/apply.html>

Ashoka's Youth Venture: Rolling

Youth Venture inspires and invests in teams of young people to design and launch their own lasting social ventures, enabling them to have a transformative experience of leading positive social change. When the team is ready to launch, Youth Venture offers seed funding up to \$1,000, guidance, tools and support, and a supportive network of fellow Youth Ventures.

Details: <http://www.genv.net/>

\$500 Do Something Seed Grant: Rolling

Young people age 25 and under who are working to start a community action project or program are eligible to apply for a \$500 Do Something Seed Grant. One winner is chosen every week.

Details: <http://www.dosomething.org/grants/seedgrants>



AIAA: Grants for Science and Math Programs: Rolling

K-12 teachers who develop or apply science, math and technology may qualify for a grant of up to \$200. Grants may be used for demonstration kits, science supplies, math and science software, supplies for robotic programs, and other materials to help make science, math and technology come alive in the classroom. Grants are considered on a quarterly basis in January, March, June and September.

Details: <http://www.aiaa.org/content.cfm?pageid=216>

Irwin Andrew Porter Foundation: Rolling

The Irwin Andrew Porter Foundation funds environmental education programs that show evidence that the teacher thinks "outside the box." The quality, innovation, thoughtfulness and effectiveness of the project are all considered in determining the winners of this grant. Grant amounts may range from \$500 to \$30,000, depending on the nature of the program.

Details: <http://www.iapfoundation.org/>

Kinder Morgan Foundation Grant: Rolling

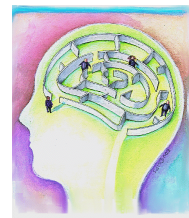
The Kinder Morgan Foundation believes that today's youth are tomorrow's leaders, and our mission is to provide them with opportunities to learn and grow. Our goal is to help today's science, math and music students become the engineers, educators and musicians who will support our diverse communities for many years to come.

Details: http://www.kindermorgan.com/community/km_foundation_submitgrant.cfm

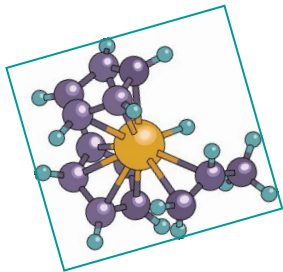
Funagain Games Grants: Rolling

Funagain Games believes board games are a great way to promote education, learning, and community outreach. As such Funagain Games is proud to provide a monthly grant program dedicated to providing games to organizations that further those ideals in their daily work. Funagain will pick one recipient for each of the grants on the first business day of the month and grant recipients will be listed on the Funagain website. Grants are good for up to \$100 worth of items offered by Funagain Games. Shipping to the 50 US states is not deducted from the grant amount, and will be provided for free.

Details: <http://www.funagain.com/control/rc?p=grants>



ALL LEVELS (4-8)



Fermilab Friends for Science Education Scholarships for Teacher Workshops, Science Adventures and Transportation: Rolling

Funding for professional development for teachers and enrichment for students such as doing science in the field is becoming increasingly difficult for schools. Fermilab Friends for Science Education offers scholarships for teachers to attend summer workshops, assist with field trip transportation expenses and provide scholarships to families for student classes.

Details: http://ed.fnal.gov/ffse/ed_ffse_scholarships.html

Sip to Support a Garden Program: Rolling

Through the Sip to Support a Garden program, sponsored by Jamba Juice, schools and community gardens can earn credits that can be applied against the purchase of essential gardening equipment suitable for any age from the National Gardening Association's Gardening with Kids catalog. Participation is easy: Sign up your school or garden organization online; Your organization will receive a Jamba-Kit that includes program details—and start swiping. Each time a supporter uses the swipe card for purchases, Jamba will donate 10% of the purchase to NGA for your purchasing account. Sign up your school and Sip to Support online.

Details: <http://www.jambajuice.com/gardens>

LEGO Children's Fund: Rolling

The LEGO Children's Fund will provide quarterly grants for programs, either in part or in total, with a special interest paid to collaborative efforts and in providing matching funds to leverage new dollars into the receiving organization. We will give priority consideration to programs that both meet our goals and are supported in volunteer time and effort by our employees.

Details: <http://www.legochildrensfund.org/Guidelines.html>

Staples Foundation: Rolling

The greatest gift we can give all children is hope for the future. The Foundation aims to create and sustain in our youth the desire to realize their full potential. By setting an example of achievement, and supplying the means for inspiration and encouragement, we work to provide them with a solid basis for learning and growth.

Details: <http://www.staplesfoundation.org/index.php>

President's Volunteer Service Awards: Rolling

Be recognized for your volunteer work with a certificate and letter from the President. There are three categories - children ages 5-14, youth ages 15-25, and groups and families.

Details: <http://www.ysa.org/awards/PVSA>

Captain Planet Foundation Grant: Deadlines~September 30, January 15, May 31

The Captain Planet Foundation primarily makes grants to U.S.-based schools and organizations with an annual operating budget of less than \$3 million. Grants are made for activities that conform to the mission of the Captain Planet Foundation which is to: promote and support high-quality educational programs that enable children and youth to understand and appreciate our world through learning experiences that engage them in active, hands-on projects to improve the environment in their schools and communities.

Details: <http://www.captainplanetfoundation.org/default.aspx?pid=3&tab=apply>



NEA Foundation-Nickelodeon Big Help Grants: Deadlines~February 1, June 1, October 15

The National Education Association (NEA) Foundation-Nickelodeon Big Help Grants are available in the form of student achievement grants to K-8 public school educators. The program is dedicated to the development and implementation of ideas, techniques and approaches for addressing four key concerns: environmental awareness; health and wellness; students' right to a quality public education; and active community involvement. Practicing U.S. public school teachers, public school education support professionals and faculty and staff members at public institutions of higher education may apply. The maximum grant amount is \$5,000.

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

ALL LEVELS (4-8)



NEA Foundation Grants: Student Achievement, Learning and Leadership, Books Across America, etc.: Deadlines~February 1, June 1, October 15

New ideas and practices to strengthen teaching and learning. Our goal is to fund and share successful strategies to educate and prepare children for bright and rewarding futures.

Details: <http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/educators/grant-programs/>

McCarthy Dressman Foundation-Teacher Development Grants: Deadlines~January 15, April 15

Provide funding to individuals or small teams of teachers in the formation and implementation of groundbreaking k-12 classroom instruction.

Details: <http://www.mccarthydressman.org/teacher.html>



Project AWARE Foundation Grant: Deadlines~March 15, June 15, September 15, December 15

The Project AWARE Foundation is committed to the preservation of the aquatic environment and its resources throughout the world through education, advocacy, and action. The Foundation provides grants for the conservation of both marine and freshwater underwater environments, with a focus on coral reefs, shark protection, sustainable fisheries, ecotourism, shoreline cleanups, and aquatic education for children. Grants range up to US \$10,000. In some instances, partial funding may be awarded.

Details: <http://www.projectaware.org/project/grants>

American Honda Foundation: Deadlines~ November 1, February 1, May 1, August 1

The American Honda Foundation supports youth education programs with a specific focus on the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects in addition to the environment. Grants range from \$20,000 to \$60,000.

Details: <http://corporate.honda.com/america/philanthropy.aspx?id=ahf>

Do Something Club Grants: Last Day of Each Month

Are you a Do Something Club working on social action projects in your community? Then you're eligible to apply for a Do Something Clubs Grant! We're giving out 5 grants worth \$250 every single month to Do Something Clubs just like you!

Details: <http://www.dosomething.org/clubs/grants>

Digital Wish: Deadlines~15th of Every Month

Digital Wish is a non-profit on a mission to help teachers solve technology shortfalls in their classrooms. Apply for grants, create a wish list of technology your classroom needs, and share lesson plans and fundraising ideas with fellow educators across the country. Digital Wish also provides a searchable library of grants and a myriad of ideas for fundraising. The entire site is designed to empower teachers to find funding for technology for their classrooms.

Details: http://www.digitalwish.com/dw/digitalwish/grant_awards



Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation-Melody Program, Special Projects Program and Teacher Award Program: Deadline~July (pre-qualifications open)

Music programs serving low-income communities, programs with little or no budget for musical instruments and music programs in school and out of school time programs.

Details: <http://www.mhopus.org/Apply>

Illinois Retired Teachers Association: Deadline~Fall

The Illinois Retired Teachers Association (IRTA) Foundation is making \$15,000 in grant money available to 26 counties in Illinois. This special grant will provide additional funds to public school educators (Pre-K through 12) so that their students will have the means to participate in special projects. The program will rotate each year among Northern, Central, and Southern Illinois."

ALL LEVELS (4-8)



National Weather Association Grants: Deadlines~June 1, 2012

Sol Hirsch Education Fund Grants are awarded annually to teachers/educators of grades K-12 to help improve the education of their students, school and/or community in the science of meteorology. The Grant is intended to allow teachers to: Purchase scientific materials and / or equipment for the classroom, school or community. Begin new school and / or community science outreach and education programs. Enhance and / or expand existing meteorology / science education programs. Attend accredited courses, workshops and /or conferences related to meteorology that will significantly enhance their teaching activities. The NWA awards up to seven (7) \$750 grants each School Year. The application process is completed totally on-line and is open from February through June 1st. Grants are awarded in late summer.

Details: <http://www.nwas.org/grants/solhirsch.php>



Touching Lives Through Theatre™ Grants Pioneer Drama Service, Inc.: Deadline~ August 2012

Pioneer Drama Service is proud to offer grants available for the upcoming 2012-13 school year. Because we believe so strongly in the power of theatre to make a difference in a student's life, we are awarding a total of \$5000 of grants in the form of Pioneer Drama credit to qualifying middle and high schools.

Details: <http://www.pioneerdrama.com/>

ASCD Outstanding Young Educator Award: Deadline~August 1, 2012

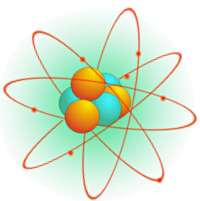
The OYEA program celebrates the next generation of teachers and administrators who demonstrate outstanding leadership. ASCD seeks candidates who exemplify a passion for excellence in educating the whole child; demonstrating leadership; improving student engagement, achievement, and learning; and contributing to the education profession.

Details: <http://www.ascd.org/programs/Outstanding-Young-Educator-Award/Outstanding-Young-Educator-Award-Program.aspx>

Lawrence Foundation Grants: Deadline~ May 31 and November 5

The Lawrence Foundation is focused on providing grants to support environmental, education, human services, and other causes. The foundation funds projects in the following areas: science/environment, after-school, arts, community involvement/volunteerism, general education, math, miscellaneous, reading, safe/drug-free schools, social studies. The average grant amount ranges from \$5,000–\$100,000. Applications are due by **May 31** for the June grant cycle and **November 5** for the December grant cycle.

Details: <http://www.thelawrencefoundation.org/grants/>



Northrop Grumman: Deadlines~April 30 and September 30

Through this program, the company seeks to address critical issues and needs by providing financial assistance to accredited schools and 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. The company focuses a substantial portion of its contributions on programs addressing education, the environment, health and human services, as well as services for veterans and the military. Grant requests are reviewed twice per year. Grant requests submitted by April 30 will be reviewed by May 30. Grant requests submitted by September 30 will be reviewed by October 30.

Details: <http://www.nsta.org/publications/calendar/default.aspx>

ING Unsung Heroes: Deadline~April 30, 2012

ING Unsung Heroes Began In 1995 As A Way For ING To Demonstrate Its Commitment To The Education Community. Grants Are Given To K-12 Educators Utilizing New Teaching Methods And Techniques That Improve Learning.

Details: <http://www.grantsalert.com/grants/Foundations/194>

Motorola, Innovation Generation Grants:Deadline~April 2012

Engage students and teachers in innovative, hands-on STEM activities, develop innovative thinking and creative problem-solving skills, Focus on girls and minorities, in communities with Motorola Solutions employees and involve employees as volunteers.

Details: <http://responsibility.motorolasolutions.com/index.php/communityinvestment/education/>

ALL LEVELS (4-8)



Target-Arts and Culture Grant: Deadline~April 30, 2012

Music, art, dance, drama and visual arts are all part of the well-rounded education our kids deserve. Through grants, Target helps schools bring more arts and culture into the classroom, enabling them to expand their creativity... and their horizons. Art and Culture in Schools Grants are \$2,000. Grant applications are typically accepted between March 1 and April 30 each year, with grant notifications delivered in September. Details: <http://sites.target.com/site/en/company/page.jsp?contentId=WCMP04-031819>



Target-Early Childhood Reading Grants: Deadline~April 30, 2012

Reading is essential to a child's learning process. That's why Target awards grants to schools, libraries and nonprofit organizations to support programs such as after-school reading events and weekend book clubs. Together, we're fostering a love of reading and encouraging children to read with their families. Early Childhood Reading Grants are \$2,000. Grant applications are typically accepted between March 1 and April 30 each year, with grant notifications delivered in September. Details: <http://sites.target.com/site/en/company/page.jsp?contentId=WCMP04-031821>

K'NEX and Cedar Point Amusement Park: Deadline~April 2, 2012

Cedar Point amusement park in Sandusky, Ohio, has teamed up with K'NEX to bring school groups grades 6–12 the second Cedar Point K'NEX Great Thrill Ride Build-Off. To celebrate Math and Science Week, Cedar Point and K'NEX are inviting classrooms across the United States to build an amusement park ride using only K'NEX pieces for the chance to win prizes. Classrooms are asked to provide the scientific and mathematical reasons explain how their ride operates. K'NEX designers and Cedar Point ride engineers will choose five winners to show off their work at Cedar Point during the park's Math and Science Week, which will take place May 14–18, 2012. Additional prizes include K'NEX building sets, gift certificates, and complimentary Cedar Point tickets.

Details: [http://www.knex.com/News and Events/Thrill-Ride-Build-Off-2012.php](http://www.knex.com/News_and_Events/Thrill-Ride-Build-Off-2012.php)



Air Force Association Educator Grants: Deadlines~March 31 and September 30

The Air Force Association provides grants to public schools to support science and environment programs. Grants cannot exceed \$250 per request. Grants must be used for aerospace education-related items/activities such as books, videotapes, aerospace-oriented field trips, and aerospace education days. Deadlines are March 31 for the spring cycle and September 30 for the fall cycle. Details:

http://www.capmembers.com/aerospace_education/aem_specific/educator_grants_and_scholarship_information.cfm

Western Digital Foundation Grants: Deadlines~ March 15 and November 15

Grants are awarded to educational organizations that offer programs from primary through graduate levels. Of special interest are programs that focus on innovation in engineering (electrical, mechanical, chemical and solid state physics) and personal computing literacy and science discovery.

Details: <http://www.wdc.com/en/company/communityrelations/grantrequest.aspx>



The Grand Challenges 60 Second Pitch Contest: Deadline~March 30, 2012

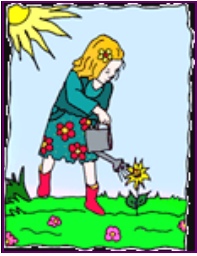
Tell us in 100 words or less how you would solve one of these challenges: economically harness solar power, provide access to clean water, or restore the urban infrastructure. The top submissions will be invited to record their pitch at the USA Science & Engineering Festival Expo in April 2012, and will be eligible for cash prizes! *Contest opens Sept. 20, 2011 and closes Mar 30, 2012.* Details: <http://www.usasciencefestival.org/2012festival/contests>

Toyota Tapestry Grants:Deadline~March 2012

Toyota TAPESTRY recognizes outstanding educators who are making a difference by demonstrating excellence and creativity in science teaching. Since 1991 the program has awarded more than \$9.2 million to 1,147 teams of teachers for innovative science classroom projects. Thanks to these teachers' tireless efforts to improve their skills and increase their effectiveness, students nationwide are gaining a better understanding of science principles and methodologies.

Details: <http://tapestry.nsta.org/>

ELEMENTARY LEVEL (4-5)



Annie's Grants for Gardens: Rolling

We offer a limited number of small grants to community gardens, school gardens and other educational programs that connect children directly to gardening. These funds can be used to buy gardening tools, seeds or other needed supplies.

Details: http://www.annies.com/grants_for_gardens



Pets in the Classroom: Deadline~June 30, 2012

Pets in the Classroom is an educational grants program to help bring aquarium fish or small pets into PreK-6th grade classrooms. You can obtain a grant or coupon for the purchase of new pets, pet environments or pet food and supplies for existing classroom pets.

Details: <https://netforum.avectra.com/eWeb/StartPage.aspx?Site=PCT>



MIDDLE LEVEL (6-8)



NASCAR STEM Initiative: Rolling

Bring the excitement of the country's most-watched spectator sport to the classroom and provide your students with the opportunity to learn new skills in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) using the Ten80 Student Racing Challenge: NASCAR STEM Initiative.™

Details: <http://www.studentracingchallenge.com/>

Ways To Help Grants: Rolling

WaysToHelp.org invites teens in the U.S. to apply for grants to fund their community service ideas across any one of 16 issue areas, including clean water, land preservation, global warming and recycling.

Details: <http://waystohelp.org/grants.php>

Waste Management: Rolling

Healthy thriving communities depend on involved citizens, organizations and corporate partners for momentum. We lend our support and services to causes that promote civic pride, economic development and revitalization. Every community has its own challenges, and we strive always to be part of problem-solving initiatives.

Details: <http://www.wm.com/about/community/charitable-giving.jsp>

Teach@15 Award Program: Rolling

The Teach@15 Award Program helps schools that serve grades 7-12 meet their technology needs. Teens (ages 13-18) who are registered members on at15.com can nominate their schools to win an award. The first place school will receive \$1,500, second place \$1,000, and third place \$500.

Details: http://www.bestbuy-communityrelations.com/our_focus.htm

Ways to Help: Rolling

WaysToHelp.org invites teens in the U.S. to apply for grants to fund their community service ideas across any one of 16 issue areas, including the environment. Grant requests are reviewed and responded to on a monthly basis.

Details: <http://waystohelp.org/>

Toshiba America Foundation~Deadline: (See bold below)

Do you teach 6-12 science or math? Do you have a wish list of instructional equipment that will make learning more exciting for your students? **Grade 6-12 applications for \$5,000 or less are accepted on a rolling basis, throughout the calendar year. Grant requests of more than \$5,000 are reviewed twice a year. Applications for grants of more than \$5,000 are due February 1st and August 1st each year.**

Details: <http://www.toshiba.com/taf/612.jsp>



MIDDLE LEVEL (6-8)

Future City Competition: Rolling

This program asks sixth, seventh and eighth graders from around the nation to team with engineer-volunteer mentors to create their visions of the city of tomorrow. The competition is an example of problem-based learning with computer simulation. It is an integrated, multidisciplinary, holistic approach to relevant issues and is a strong example of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education that addresses national and state academic content standards. This year's theme is "Fuel Your Future: Imagine new ways to meet our energy needs and maintain a healthy planet." As students address alternative energy solutions, they will consider the safety, cost, efficiency and appearance of their ideas.

Details: <http://www.futurecity.org/>



Christopher Columbus Awards: Rolling

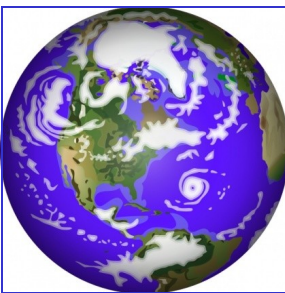
This national, community-based science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) program challenges middle school students to work in teams of three to four, with an adult coach, to identify a problem in their community and apply scientific methods to create an innovative solution to that problem. Eight finalist teams and their coaches will receive an all-expense-paid trip to Walt Disney World to attend National Championship Week and compete for U.S. Savings Bonds and the \$25,000 Columbus Foundation Community Grant, plus a \$200 development grant to further refine their idea. Teams do not need to be affiliated with a school to enter.

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

Entertainment Software Association: Deadline~May 15, 2012

Grants of up to \$50,000 will be awarded to nonprofits working to support programs and opportunities that use technology and/or computer and video games to make a positive difference in the lives of America's youth. Programs must serve American youth ages 7-18. Applications are accepted year-round, but applicants seeking to implement projects for the next calendar year should submit applications by the May 15 deadline.

Details: <http://www.esafoundation.org/application.asp>



Gloria Barron's Prize for Young Heros: Deadline~April 30, 2012

The award honors outstanding young leaders who have made a significant positive difference to people and our planet. Nominees, who may range in age from 8 to 18 years old, must have been the prime mover of a service activity, and demonstrated positive spirit and high moral purpose in accomplishing their goals. Nominees must be nominated by responsible adults who have solid knowledge of the young person's heroic activities, and who are not related to the nominee. Winners of the Barron Prize receive \$2,500 to be applied to their higher education or to their service project.

Details: <http://www.barronprize.org/>

Grand Challenge: Deadline~March 30, 2012

If you add just one contest to your curriculum this year, the Grand Challenges Contest should be that one. We created this contest to inspire students to pursue a STEM education. We welcome your comments and feedback to make the contest as desirable as possible. To enter, students must provide a possible answer to one of the following grand challenges that face our society.

- ◆ Harnessing solar power
- ◆ Providing access to clean water
- ◆ Restoring urban infrastructure

Details: <http://www.engineering.com/USAScienceFestival/TheGrandChallengesContest.aspx>

CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Fund for Teachers

Fund for Teachers is the national donor supported organization that awards fellowships for self-designed professional growth to teachers who recognize the value of inquiry, the power of knowledge and their ability to make a difference. FFT provides fellowship grants directly to teachers, with more than three years of experience, to support their professional learning during the summer. Their experiences come in many forms, but share the purpose of better teaching. Ultimately, FFT believes that by experiencing the potential of their personal and professional learning, teachers in turn inspire potential in their students.

Details: <http://www.fundforteachers.org/apply/il.html>



Chicago Foundation for Education Small Grant Program

Chicago Foundation for Education awards **\$500 Small Grants** to CPS elementary school teachers with innovative, creative classroom ideas that will enhance student learning. Grants provide teachers the resources needed to develop an effective curricular project that engages students, improves learning and aligns with the standards. Individuals or teams of teachers may apply for a Small Grant to develop and implement new project ideas in their classrooms. All Chicago public elementary school educators (PreK through 8th Grade) are eligible to apply.

Details: http://www.cfelessonplans.org/pages/teacher_login/195.php

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SCHOOLS

2011 Technology Grants for Rural Schools

Projects and purchases must directly benefit the rural school requesting the grant. Tech Grants are intended to help promote innovation and creativity in rural schools. As The Role Of Technology In Classrooms Grows, It Becomes A Powerful Tool To Improve Both Teaching And Learning. Many Schools Are Incorporating New, Innovative Technology In An Effort To Help Motivate And Inspire Their Students. Illinois areas that could apply for this grant include: Alhambra, Crossville, Equality, Geneseo, Grafton, Gridley, Leaf River, Lovington, Marseilles, Metamora, **St. Jacob**, Virginia and Waterloo.

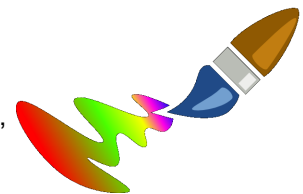
Details: <http://www.fred.org/pdfs/FREDProgramEligibility.pdf>

AWARDS & COMPETITIONS

Doodle 4 Google

Welcome to Doodle 4 Google, a contest where we invite students in the United States to use their artistic talents to think big and redesign Google's homepage logo for millions to see. This year, we ask students to exercise their creative imaginations around the theme, "If I could travel in time, I'd visit..." One lucky student artist will see their artwork appear on the Google homepage and take home some cool prizes--and as a special bonus, the winning artwork will appear on a limited edition of Crayola's iconic 64 box!

Details: http://www.google.com/doodle4google/#utm_campaign=en&utm_source=en-oa-na-us-site_1049488&utm_medium=oa



Nominate a Young Environmental Hero for a \$2,500 Barron Prize!

Deadline: April 30, 2012

The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes invites nominations for its 2012 awards. The Barron Prize, founded by author T.A. Barron in honor of his mother, celebrates outstanding young leaders ages 8 to 18. Each year, the Barron Prize honors inspiring young people who have made a significant positive difference to people and our planet. Ten winners each receive \$2,500 to support their service work or higher education. Half of each year's winners are chosen for their work to protect the environment.

Details: <http://www.barronprize.org/>

AWARDS & COMPETITIONS



We Are Teachers

Do you have a winning idea to build success in the classroom? Thousands of teachers have submitted creative initiatives for teaching projects, and hundreds have won cash and prizes for projects covering everything from the environment to the arts to digital learning and more. Get started now and share your ideas, find inspiration and make connections!

Details: <http://www.weareteachers.com/ideas>

Great Educators Award

Do you know someone who is a great educator? Someone who has been powerfully influential and positive during their time with students of all ages? We are looking to contact and hear from teachers, administrators, and other educators who have made a positive impact in their schools and classrooms.

Details: <http://www.spotlightassemblies.com/emailmarketer/surveys.php?id=9>

Golden Apple Foundation

Nominees must be full-time classroom teachers at a public or non-public school in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake or Will counties in Illinois. Nominees must be committed to continue teaching in Illinois for at least two years after completing the sabbatical. *NOTE: Golden Apple Awards rotate through grade levels on an annual basis:*

2010 - High School	2012 - pre-K-3rd Grade
2011 - 4th-8th Grade	2013 - High School



The Golden Apple Award offers its recipients (known as *Fellows*), the platform to create or contribute to programmatic responses to the needs of schoolchildren throughout Illinois. In addition to the honor and public recognition, Golden Apple Award winners enjoy these additional rewards:

- A paid semester sabbatical at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. Winners may take as many courses as they wish in any subjects they choose. As part of the sabbatical, the winners, as a group, design a seminar series to which they invite individuals who are making significant contributions in the field of education.
- A cash award of \$3,000 and induction into the Golden Apple Academy of Educators

Details: http://www.goldenapple.org/pages/awards_and_recognition/2.php

365 Chemistry For Life Contest

The American Chemical Society (ACS) is offering students, teachers and others the chance to win cash cards and an iPad, iPod Touch and iPod Nano in a contest to fill in empty dates in its IYC-365 online calendar. Called the "365: Chemistry for Life Contest," it is part of ACS' celebration of the International Year of Chemistry.

Details: <http://fs7.formsite.com/ACSEducation/365ChemistryforLife/index.html>

Nickelodeon's The Big Help Greens Your School

Teachers, principals, and school administrators! Here's your chance to get some green love from Nick and bring some excitement to kids in your community. Tell us what your school is planning or has done as a project to help the environment. Ten projects will receive a \$1,000 spot grants to help take their environmental project to the next level. Five projects will receive "shout outs" on Nickelodeon and/or Nick.com and one project will be chosen for a visit by Nickelodeon. In order to be considered for a visit from Nick your project must take place between April 1 and 14.

Details: Write to Maitland.Lachman@mtvstaff.com



The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

The Nation's highest honors for teachers of mathematics and science. Awardees serve as models for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities, and leaders in the improvement of mathematics and science education.

Details: <https://www.paemst.org/>

AWARDS & COMPETITIONS

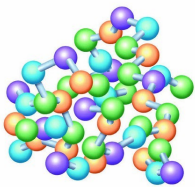


The Green Thumb Challenge: Rolling

The Green Thumb Challenge aims to connect children with nature and the healthy benefits of gardening as part of a nationwide movement to get kids growing. Whether sowing seeds during one class period, planting bulbs in one afternoon, or planning an outdoor garden that comes back year after year, you and your students can be part of the movement! All participants have an opportunity to be awarded a \$5,000 grant in recognition of their garden project. Over \$10,000 worth of prizes have already been awarded to Green Thumb Challenge participants, courtesy of program sponsors.

Details: http://www.greeneducationfoundation.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=360:green-thumb-challenge-overview&catid=97:overview&Itemid=289

NAIS Challenge 20/20: Rolling



The NAIS Challenge 20/20 program brings together schools in the United States with schools in other countries. Together, they identify local solutions to a global problem. Technological advances and increased mobility and networking have led to an increasingly interdependent world. Schools have the opportunity to educate students to become leaders in this interconnected world. NAIS's Challenge 20/20 program provides an opportunity for schools — public and private, elementary and secondary — to develop globally based, experiential curricula and to build educational partnerships with schools around the world. Challenge 20/20 students form authentic bonds with students from across the globe. They learn first-hand about cross-cultural communication. Together, the teams tackle a real problem. Upper school students may have an opportunity to share their experiences at the NAIS Institute for Student Leaders.

Details: <http://www.nais.org/go/challenge2020>

Funds for Fuel Up to Play 60: Deadlines~December 1, February 1, June 1

Up to \$4,000 per year is available to any qualifying K-12 school enrolled in Fuel Up to Play 60. The competitive, nationwide funding program can help your school jumpstart and sustain healthy nutrition and physical activity improvements. Whether you're just starting out with Fuel Up to Play 60 or looking to expand and extend an initiative that's already in motion, Funds for Fuel Up to Play 60 can help.

Details: http://school.fueluptoplay60.com/funds/funds_for_futp60.php

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools

The U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools will recognize schools that save energy, reduce costs, feature environmentally sustainable learning spaces, protect health, foster wellness, and offer environmental education to boost academic achievement and community engagement. The recognition award is part of a larger U.S. Department of Education (Department) effort to identify and disseminate knowledge about practices proven to result in improved student engagement, academic achievement, graduation rates, and workforce preparedness, as well as a government-wide aim to increase energy independence and economic security.

Details: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/index.html>



USA Science and Engineering Festival: Kid Wind Challenge

The KidWind Challenge is a student-oriented wind turbine design contest. Students will design and construct their own wind turbines with the goal of creating a device that is efficient, elegant and highly functional. To accomplish this task, and arrive prepared at a Challenge, students must perform research to better understand the science of wind, be analytical about testing protocols, think creatively about solutions to problems and work collaboratively to get their project completed on time. Student teams will convene at the USA Science and Engineering Festival and the teams enter a judging process.

Details: <http://www.usasciencefestival.org/2012festival/contests/the-kidwind-challenge>

Class Wish Organization

Sometimes businesses and civic organizations want to be involved with local schools but don't know how or what to contribute. ClassWish.org helps these groups connect with teachers. Teachers post wish lists of their classroom needs online, and the website provides customized flyers to help them spread the word in their communities about their specific needs. Interested contributors can visit the site and select what they wish to donate.

Details: ClassWish.org



FUNDRAISERS



JAMBA JUICE

Just register your school or public community garden* group to join our swipe card program. Every time a supporter of your group uses the card at a participating Jamba Juice, your program gets 10% of the sales. Details: <http://www.jambajuice.com/gardens>

Read to Feed®

Read to Feed is a reading incentive service-learning program that offers global education opportunities and will foster in your children a love for reading, a passion to help others and a way to help create a better world. Heifer's Read to Feed resources makes the program fun for the students and easy for the leader.

Details: <http://www.heifer.org/site/c.edJRKQNiFiG/b.6135231/>



Flower Power

NGA is proud to endorse Flower Power Fundraising. This program gives schools and nonprofits a "healthy" option for fundraising — selling bulbs that will bloom into stunning floral displays.

Details: <http://www.kidsgardening.com/fundraising.asp>

Heifer International Service Learning and Fundraising Service-Learning and Fundraising Programs

Heifer International as inspired students act to improve the lives of communities helped by Heifer. We encourage you and your students to join these efforts and offer these ideas for all grade levels to get you started.

Details: <http://www.heifer.org/site/c.edJRKQNiFiG/b.6135227/>

Box Tops for Education

Sponsored by General Mills, Box Tops for Education enables K-8 schools to earn up to \$60,000 every year by clipping 10¢ Box Tops coupons from hundreds of products such as Cheerios, Betty Crocker, Juicy Juice, Ziploc, Kleenex, Hefty, and more. At the Box Tops Marketplace, individuals can shop at over 70 online stores like Oriental Trading Co., JCPenney, and Lands' End, and a percentage of these purchases will go back to their schools. Teachers can begin their shopping at the Box Tops Reading Room to earn up to 6% on purchases at Barnes & Noble. In addition, they can check out the Bonus Box Tops section for sweepstakes, contests, and other bonus opportunities each month.

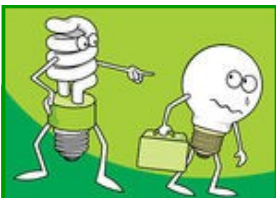
Details: <http://www.boxtops4education.com/Default.aspx>



Healthy School Healthy You

Established in 2002, St. Hill Pharmaceutical Corporation is a certified woman-owned business whose mission is to provide families with innovative wellness products that benefit the health of adults and children alike. St. Hill started Healthy School Healthy You Fundraisers to help families do something healthy every day while providing a way for the school community to profit at the same time.

Details: <http://www.healthy-school-healthy-you-fundraiser.org/instructions.html>



Lights for Learning

An education-based outreach and fundraising program that promotes the sale and use of low-cost, energy efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). The Program helps children and schools raise needed funds while encouraging participants and their communities to become more energy conscious.

Details: <http://www.lights4learning.org/>

Pennies for the Planet

Kids nationwide can participate in this environmental education and action campaign to protect wildlife and habitat. This year's program focuses on three unique and vital wildlife habitats—spanning special places from the Atlantic to the Arctic Oceans—that are in critical need of protection. Pennies for the Planet can inspire kids of all ages to learn about and become engaged in protecting biodiversity.

Details: <http://www.togethergreen.org/p4p/>

FREEBIES



Purdue zipTrips~FREE Electronic Field Trip

Do you want to take your middle-school science students on a field trip without breaking the budget? Wish you had an alternative? Purdue zipTrips™ is the answer!! These free electronic field trips will bring a new experience in science education directly to your school. Details:

<http://www.agriculture.purdue.edu/zipTrips/>



Museum of Science and Industry

Illinois school groups get free general admission for field trips.

Details: <http://www.msichicago.org/education/field-trips/reservations/field-trip-reservation/>

Fermilab Science Presentations

Is your school within 90 minutes driving time of Fermilab? Why not invite a Fermilab scientist to your classroom! We put on exciting presentations on the following topics. To schedule a visit contact us no less than three weeks prior to your requested date. Send the name of presentation, a few dates, grade level and your contact information to Nancy Lanning or call 630-840-5588.

Details: http://ed.fnal.gov/trc_new/demos/index.html

PTO Today Free Family Night Planning Kits

"What's the best way to get more parents involved in your school? Host a School Family Night! Our School Family Nights program is a great way to bring more parents into your school and connect with your school's families. Once parents see what a great time they can have with their kids at your school events... they'll be ready to sign up for more."

Details: http://www.ptoday.com/sfn/SFN_homepage_leader.php

LIFE of the FOREST Posters

Complimentary poster set: five different subjects, posters are 16 inches by 20 inches each. Accompanying five piece handout set also included.

Details: <http://signetstore.com/>

Classroom Resource Guide

Edutopia is thrilled to share with you our latest classroom resource guide highlighting new solutions for connecting home and school in order to improve student learning and success.

Details: <http://www.edutopia.org/home-to-school-connections-guide>



A Reel Adventure

It's very tempting for children to spend a lot of time indoors with more and more digital tools available at their fingertips. That is why the Take Me Fishing™ campaign and Discovery Education are partnering to promote curiosity in the great outdoors. Explore the Blue is a comprehensive program providing free resources to help you engage your students in a dialogue about boating, fishing and other outdoor recreational activities, as well as teach them the value of clean and healthy waterways.

Details: www.takemefishing.org

National Park Service – A Living Classroom

The National Park Service has compiled the education resources of more than 110 national parks in a single Web site. Spanning grades K-12 the resources include virtual field trips, pre- and post- visit activities and other learning experiences that highlight each park's unique features or special environmental programs.

Details: <http://www.nps.gov/learn/curriculum.cfm>

FREEBIES



State Parks Magazines

Are you looking for literature to distribute at an event or to provide to the public from your office, school or library? Why not consider the Illinois *State Parks Magazine*? This free publication is available in cases of 100 copies and shipping on this item is free, too.

Details: <http://dnr.state.il.us/teachkids> and look under the "Park Brochures" tab.

Howard Hughes Medical

HHMI has created a series of award-winning DVDs and CD-ROMs on a variety of topics in biology, and teachers can order multiple copies free of charge.

Details: <http://www.hhmi.org/catalog/main?action=getCategoryListing&catId=2>



Mission: Science Website

This Web site is a one-stop shop for NASA Science and the educational resources created by NASA and its partners. Most appropriate for middle and high school students and teachers, the site offers resources in five categories: NASA Science, Be a Scientist, Get Involved, Games and Activities, and Multimedia. Each category spans several science disciplines. For example, in NASA Science, physics-oriented visitors can tour the electromagnetic spectrum or watch a video on planetary dynamics, while Earth science-minded visitors can explore tropical twisters or follow NASA weather satellites in real time.

Details: <http://missionscience.nasa.gov/>



Adler Planetarium Astronomy Kits

Adler Discovery Kits are sure to be a hit in your classroom! Each kit is full of learning resources for you and your students to explore and comes with a corresponding curriculum guide. Kits may be checked out for four weeks at a time. The kits are available by reservation only.

Details: <http://www.adlerplanetarium.org/educate/resources/kits>

New Videos Spotlight Science/Technology Careers and Educational Path to Secure Jobs in Them

Advanced Technological Education Television (ATETV), an award-winning Web video series sponsored in part by the **National Science Foundation**, returns with 40 new videos just in time for the 2011/2012 school year. ATETV.ORG is a free Web video series featuring up to the minute information connecting students with high-tech education and employment opportunities. New in 2011, the series will look at career opportunities in Biotechnology, Environmental Technology (Water, Wind, Solar), Laser Manufacturing and Mechatronics just to name a few. ATETV cameras will take viewers inside the classroom and onto the job site to hear from high-tech workers themselves. New episodes are posted every Monday. This is a completely free resource with no obligation to register. Details: <http://www.atetv.org/>



School of Ants

The School of Ants project is a citizen-scientist driven study of the ants that live in urban areas, particularly around homes and schools. Collection kits are available to anyone interested in participating. Teachers, students, parents, kids, junior-scientists, senior citizens and all ant enthusiasts are involved in collecting ants in schoolyards and backyards using a standardized protocol. Sampling kits will be available soon.

Details: <http://schoolofants.org/about>

Free Microsoft Tools for Your Classroom

Engage students, energize lesson plans, and save time using free tools for photos, videos, collaboration, and education. Many of these tools and applications don't require special training, so you can use them right away to enhance your teaching and learning activities.

Details: http://www.microsoft.com/education/en-us/teachers/guides/Pages/free-tools.aspx?qstr=CR_CC=&CR_ID=

FREEBIES

USDA Stop the Beetle Web Site

At the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Stop the Beetle Web site, students ages 8-12 can learn about the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) beetle and how to protect ash trees from this insect pest. The Web site also has printable activity sheets, an online fact-matching game and a video entitled The Nature Walk: Understanding the Life Cycle of the EAB. Details:

<http://www.stopthebeetle.info/kidscorner/>

Dyson Education Materials Online and Through Loans

The James Dyson Foundation offers several educational resources online and through loans to teachers. Among them, the Engineering Box, designed to teach reverse engineering, can be borrowed for four weeks at a time for free. The Box's items, which include a Dyson DC26 vacuum cleaner, seven Dyson Turbine Head floor tools, one Dyson Carbon fiber floor tool, and eight Torx screwdrivers, are used in combination with the Foundation's Product Analysis resources.

Details: <http://jamesdysonfoundation.com/contact.asp>



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

iBIO Institute EDUCATE Center's TalentSparks! Workshop



This workshop will immerse teachers in a week-long problem-based experience exploring global climate change and its impacts on health. The workshop models and assesses how hands-on, high-tech skills development in biotechnology--as experienced through authentic problem-based learning projects--facilitates learners' understanding, achievement and exploration of STEM concepts and careers. iBIO Institute EDUCATE Center's TalentSparks! Workshop, July 9 – 13, 2012 at Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL. \$100 deposit is required for participants requesting housing. No cost for 32 CPDUs. Fee for 2 graduate-level credits is \$300.00. Registration deadline is April 15, 2012. Questions? Call 312.422.1111 or e-mail

karen.lindebrekke@ibioinstitute.org

Details: <http://www.ibioed.org/education/2012talentsparks.html>

Project Management Scholarships for Teachers

The following training scholarships are for primary and secondary school teachers who are interested in learning the fundamentals of project management. The training will enable you to enhance the learning experience in your classroom, implement project-based learning, and help your students build 21st century skills.

Details: <http://www.pmi.org/pmief/scholarship/scholarships-teachers.asp>

Professional Development eInstruction Grant

Apply for a Professional Development grant of \$3,500 from eInstruction®.

By participating in this grant program your teachers will learn best practices to effectively integrate different types of technology and how to leverage your existing technology to optimize what you already have. It's your conference, we just work with you to make sure it meets all your needs.

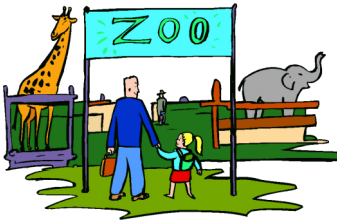
Details: <http://www.einstruction.com/programs/edtech-conference/host-edtech-conference>

Dune Dynamics: Exploring Movement of Sand, Water, and Life

Check out this exciting 2-day science teacher workshop held in Northwest Indiana! Join researchers from Purdue University and Indiana University Northwest, educators from the Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program, and the staff of the Great Lakes Research and Education Center for this exciting workshop! See research in action and learn about physical and biological processes in and along Lake Michigan. Take part in standards-based, hands-on, data manipulation activities that you can use. Design new activities as part of a National Science Foundation project. CPDU's are available for Illinois teachers. Graduate Credit is available from Indiana University Northwest and Chicago State University for an additional fee. A workshop for Teachers, Grades 6-12, June 18-19, 2012 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

Limited spaces are available. To register, please contact: Cary Troy, troy@purdue.edu

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Brookfield Zoo Teacher Professional Development

Ready for a change of pace? Take a teacher workshop at Brookfield Zoo!

Our expert educators will inform, entertain, and engage you as you explore a wide range of topics. The following classes carry ISBE credit (CPDUs) and CPS Lane Credit at no additional charge. Many provide optional graduate credit for an additional fee. Details: <http://www.czs.org/CZS/Teacher-Classes>

Register Now for Upcoming ENTICE Workshops from the IDNR (January thru March Schedule Below)

ENTICE (Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education) educator workshops from the IDNR offer background information, hands-on activities, lessons, supplemental resources, Continuing Professional Development Units and the opportunity to work with natural resources professionals. Upcoming workshops are listed below.

- ◆ *Illinois Birds*, Fermilab, Batavia, March 17, 2012
- ◆ *Invasive Exotic Plants*, Hamilton County High School, McLeansboro, March 31, 2012
- ◆ *Online The Sangamon River: A Sense of Place*, Online April 16-29, 2012
- ◆ *The Effects of Climate Change on Illinois Plants*, Chicago Botanical Gardens, April 28, 2012
- ◆ *The Microscopic World II: Ecology*, Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Chicago, May 5, 2012
- ◆ *Illinois Biodiversity Basics*, Fermilab Batavia, May 12, 2012
- ◆ *Invasive Exotic Plants*, Illinois Audubon Society, Springfield, May 19, 2012
- ◆ *Through the Eyes of a Pollinator*, The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, June 16, 2012

Details: <https://www.enticeworkshops.com/>

Siemens STEM Academy

The Siemens STEM Academy is an interactive Web site that enables educators to exchange and download resources, get up-to-date STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) news and collaborate and network among peers. The Academy also offers STEM Connect webinars and professional development programs.

Details: <http://www.siemensstemacademy.com/>

NPS Teacher-Ranger-Teacher Program

The Teacher-Ranger-Teacher (TRT) program provides opportunities for teachers to connect to the resources in a national park. Classroom teachers are detailed as park rangers to Acadia National Park through an Inter-Governmental Personnel Act (IPA) agreement between their own public school district and the National Park Service. The program focuses on teachers from schools with ethnically diverse student populations who have had little or no experience with national parks or limited opportunity to explore the relevance parks can have in their lives and the lives of their students. Teachers spend eight to 10 weeks working and living in the park. They perform various duties depending on their interests and the needs of the park. The park provides a ranger uniform, shared housing and a stipend (\$300/week). Teachers develop lesson plans based on their park experience for classroom use.

Details: <http://www.nps.gov/acad/forteachers/teacher-ranger-teacher.htm>

Educational Seminars: Exchanges for U.S. Teachers and Administrators



Educational Seminars are designed to provide U.S. and international partner administrators, teachers and students with opportunities to learn more about each others countries, educational systems, teaching methodologies, culture and society, and to initiate collaborative projects with international partner schools and communities.

Details: <http://www.americancouncils.org/program/4a/EDSPO/>

NSTA 2013: Submit a session proposal: Deadline~April 15, 2012

Submit a session proposal for NSTA's National Conference in San Antonio, Texas (April 11–14). The program committee will consider the following: Does the proposal clearly describe the session? Is the information provided in the proposal complete? Is the proposed session topic timely/appropriate? Is the proposed session based upon recommended practices? How does the proposed session address the National Science Education Standards? If identified for a particular strand, does the proposed session address the corresponding criteria?

Details: <http://www.nsta.org/conferences/>

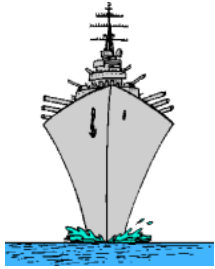
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



The All-the-Etoys-You-Can-Learn-in-One-Day Workshop on July 21, 2012 , 8AM - 5 PM

The Office for Mathematics, Science, and Technology Education, 505 E. Green Street Champaign, Illinois 61820, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign CPDU's: 8, Fee: \$100, Food: Lunch will be provided. Instructors: EtoysIllinois Team Learn more about Etoys and see projects at: www.EtoysIllinois.org. Register at <http://go.illinois.edu/EtoysSignup>

Plan Student Experiments Aboard the ISS



Washington, D.C. – The National Center for Earth and Space Science Education (NCESSE), in partnership with NanoRacks LLC, has selected 12 communities across the U.S. to participate in the third Student Spaceflight Experiments Program (SSEP) flight opportunity – SSEP Mission 1 to the International Space Station (ISS) – reflecting involvement by 92 elementary, middle and high schools. The Center and NanoRacks are also proud to announce the fourth SSEP flight opportunity, Mission 2 to ISS. Launched in June 2010, SSEP immerses typically 300 students across a community in real scientific research of their own design, using a highly captivating spaceflight opportunity on ISS, America's newest National Laboratory. The community-focused program is open to schools and school districts serving grade 5 through 12 students, 2- and 4-year colleges and universities, informal science education organizations, and internationally through the Center's new Arthur C. Clarke Institute for Space Education.

Details: <http://ssep.ncesse.org/2011/11/announcing-communities-participating-in-ssep-mission-1-to-iss-and-new-flight-opportunity-mission-2-to-iss/>

Free NASA Professional Development Opportunities: Registration Now Open

Are you looking for a way to enhance your instructional skills, meet your professional development goals, or find new and exciting resources to use in your learning/teaching environments? Then NASA's Electronic Professional Development Network (ePDN) is for you! Registration is open now and all courses are absolutely free!

Details: http://www.nasaepdn.gatech.edu/course_schedules.php



Brookfield Zoo's Advance Inquiry Program

The Chicago Zoological Society at Brookfield Zoo and Project *Dragonfly* at Miami University of Ohio are partnering to bring an exciting new Master's degree program to the Chicagoland area. The program began in the summer of 2010. The Advanced Inquiry Program (AIP) is an inquiry-driven learning experience allowing participants to take classes in-person from faculty at Brookfield Zoo and online from Miami University faculty. The opportunity to earn seven credits from international travel is another exciting part of the program. And the best news of all – it's affordable! Details: <http://www.czs.org/czs/AIP.aspx>

Brighten Your Spring with a Professional Development Course from the Wildlife Conservation Society's Online Teacher Academy

The Wildlife Conservation Society's *Online Teacher Academy* allows audiences of busy educators across the nation to pursue their professional development virtually. Brighten your spring with a course that will bring nature into your classroom! Spring 2012 **courses run from April 6 to May 27, 2012**, and include:

- ◆ *Habitat Ecology for Educators*—Explore habitats and wildlife from around the world and examine the interconnectedness of *everything* on Earth. Available at a special *reduced* price of only \$50 (a \$225 savings)!
- ◆ *Conservation Biology for Educators*—Discover what it takes to save the world's most incredible, and endangered, animals. Learn how scientists study animals in nature and use that information to protect wildlife and wild places.

Courses run entirely **online** for six weeks. Each participant will receive *free* resources. Graduate credits are available for a reasonable additional fee.

Details: www.wcs.org/elearning

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



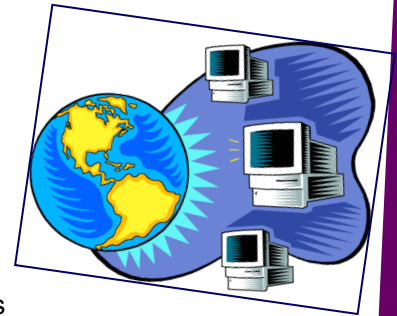
Illinois Coal Education Conference June 19-22, 2012~ Registration Deadline: April 16, 2012

Linda Dunbar at the IL DCEO Office of Coal Development provided information on the 15th Annual Illinois Coal Education Conference which runs from a welcome luncheon on Tuesday, June 19 to Friday morning, June 22, 2012. Lodging, meals, and registration are FREE. It will be held at the Rend Lake Resort in Fitzgerald State Park on Rend Lake near Benton. The four day training consists of lectures, tours, and hands-on activities correlated to IL Learning Standards. An all-day field trip on Wednesday includes visits to a surface mine, underground mine, and power plant. "The goal of the conference is to give teachers the knowledge and learning tools to incorporate coal education into their lesson plans, as well as learn other uses for one of the state's most abundant and valuable natural resources." Up to 27 CPDU's are available. About 80 teachers participated last year, and reportedly were very impressed, especially with the tour day to coal mines and understanding of the diverse and technical coal work force. Registration is limited and the deadline for applying is April 16. To ask questions, contact Linda Dunbar at 217-558-2648 or Linda.Dunbar@illinois.gov
Details: <http://www.illinoiscoal.biz>

Library of Congress Summer Institutes

The Library of Congress is now accepting applications for its 2012 Summer Teacher Institutes in Washington, D.C. The five-day institutes will provide educators with the tools and resources to effectively integrate primary sources into classroom teaching. In the institutes, Library of Congress education specialists will instruct participants in the best practices for using primary sources in the K-12 classroom, while helping them explore some of the millions of digitized primary sources available on the Library's Web site. All sessions will expose participants to a wide variety of primary sources from the Library's collections. Participants will be able to work with teachers from around the country to explore methods for effectively integrating primary sources into classroom activities.

Details: <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/professionaldevelopment/teacherinstitute/apply/index.php>



Educational Field Trip Grants

Scott Yess at the US Fish and Wildlife Service works with the Upper MS River Conservation Committee, which still has two \$250 grants available in IL for an educational field trip to the MS or IL Rivers. There must be at least 20 students travelling less than 200 miles roundtrip and you must send a report and reimbursement request within 30 days of the field trip. The deadline will go through the summer, but FIRST COME FIRST SERVED. Please contact Scott if you are interested.

Details: Scott_Yess@fws.gov

Professional Development Scholarship Opportunity



Win a Yearlong PD Scholarship to the New Science Teacher Academy—Register Now

For new secondary science teachers, those first years of teaching often are stressful and anxiety-ridden. Research indicates new teachers' performance and confidence is enhanced with professional development, engagement with like-minded peers, and solid mentoring. To that end, NSTA and sponsoring corporations established the New Science Teacher Academy, a program that fills those needs. Middle and high school science teachers in their second or third year of teaching are invited to apply to participate in the Academy. More than 200 teacher applicants will win a scholarship for the 2011-2012 Academy program. "Fellows" in the Academy will enjoy the following:

- Membership in NSTA with full benefits
- Access to facilitated, web-based curriculum devoted to content and classroom pedagogy
- One-on-one e-mentoring, specific to the Fellow's discipline and grade band
- All expenses paid to NSTA's National Conference (lodging, airfare, meals, and registration included)
- Attendance at a PD Institute or Research Conference

Visit www.nsta.org/academy to learn more or apply. The deadline is July 1, 2012.

FIELD TRIPS



Experience a field trip to the Notebaert Nature Museum in your own classroom!

Program topics focus on nature and ecology and are taught by Museum educators with hands-on, inquiry based science. We bring a piece of the Museum to your classroom and educate students on relevant, local and standards-based subject matter. Programs are 60 minutes long (flexible to your class period) and have a capacity for a maximum of 32 students per program. Topics serve as enrichment to current subject areas being taught.

Details: <http://www.naturemuseum.org/index.php?id=237>

Museum of Science and Industry: Heart Surgery 101 Learning Labs

Students will learn about careers in the Operating Room and handle real surgical tools during this facilitated session that features a pre-recorded version of our popular Live ... from the Heart program.

Details: <http://www.msichicago.org/education/field-trips/learning-labs/>

Adler Planetarium

Field Trips to the Adler are out of this world! Whether you would like your students to experience a more formal classroom experience, see a planetarium show, or explore the galleries, we have you covered.

Details: <http://www.adlerplanetarium.org/educate>

Fishing Education In-school Programs and Field Trips



Southwestern Illinois Counties: Bond, Calhoun, Clinton, Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison, Monroe, Perry, Randolph, St. Clair, Washington, Williamson. In-school or field trip programs can be scheduled. The coordinator also has several sets of fishing equipment available for loan to organized groups such as churches, scouts and families.

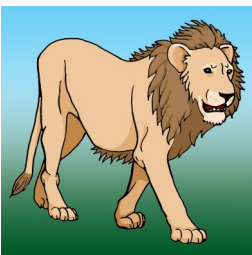
Educators in other southern Illinois counties are also welcome to contact the coordinator as there may be other fishing or environmental opportunities available to them. You can reach Mark Yehling by e-mail at mark.yehling@illinois.gov, by fax at 618-462-2424 or by phone at 618-462-1181 extension 155. There is no charge for these, hands-on fun-filled basic fishing education programs. Presentations easily fill a regular class period and can be modified for most class/school situations.

Details: mark.yehling@illinois.gov

Science Companion Virtual Field Trip

ScienceCompanion.com (an online K–6 science curriculum) pair photographs and text from scientifically significant places or events with sample lessons from the digital curriculum. Their latest trip pairs photos of migrating monarchs at California's Monterey Peninsula with a lesson on the life cycles of butterflies for grades 2–3. Previous virtual trips have highlighted places and topics such as the Gulf of Mexico (Oil Spill Cleanup) and a Costa Rican rainforest (Collecting and Examining Life).

Details: <http://www.sciencecompanion.com/samples/virtual-field-trips-from-science-companion/>



Bronx Zoo-Virtual Field Trip and Distance Learning

Take your students on a trip to the Zoo without setting foot outside your own classroom! Using two-way videoconferencing technology, the Bronx Zoo can bring engaging programs for K-12 students right into your own classroom—live! All Distance Learning Expeditions include several live animal "guests"—lemurs, lizards, owls and more. Programs are approximately 50 minutes and include extensive teacher support materials. These time-tested, teacher-endorsed programs are aligned with the National Science Education Standards and have received rave reviews from students and teachers alike.

Details: <http://www.wcs.org/teachers/distance-learning.aspx>

Online Journals and Magazines for K-12 Teachers



Online Journal for K-12 Teachers

The University of Florida will inaugurate a new online journal for K-12 science teachers in fall 2011, called *Teaching Science*. The journal will be an open, peer-reviewed, free online journal for K-12 teachers devoted to what works in the classroom. All teachers are encouraged to submit an article.

Details: <http://www.cpet.ufl.edu/TeachingScience/>

Online Free Elementary Magazine: Weather and Water

This online magazine for K–5 teachers focuses on climate science and how to teach it effectively. The magazine illustrates connections between science and literacy. The current issue, themed “The Sun and Earth’s Climate,” provides lessons that show teachers how the reading comprehension strategy of making predictions supports the development of science process skills. In addition, the publication offers professional learning resources to help teachers increase their understanding of essential climate science principles.

Details: <http://beyondweather.ehe.osu.edu/#issues>

PopSci Online Magazine

We’ve partnered with Google to offer our entire 137-year archive for free browsing. Each issue appears just as it did at its original time of publication, complete with period advertisements. And today we’re excited to announce you can browse the full archive right here on PopSci.com.

Details: <http://www.popsci.com/announcements/article/2010-03/new-browse-137-years-popsci-archive-free>

National Science Foundation’s 360 News

NSF’s Science360 News Service presents breaking science news from around the world. The website compiles news from scientists, college and university press offices, popular and peer-reviewed journals, various NSF science and engineering centers, and other funding sources. It also features a science picture of the day, video and radio broadcasts of the day, and a section highlighting “what the blogs are saying today.” Teachers of all levels can find something to share with students here.

Details: <http://news.science360.gov/files/>



Investi-gator Magazine

This journal from the U.S. Forest Service and the Cradle of Forestry Interpretive Association teaches students in grades 3–5 about current Forest Service research as well as scientific processes. Each issue presents articles formatted as scientific papers, along with information about the scientists involved in the research, a glossary, and a related “FACTivity” for the classroom. Topics explored in the premier issue include the factors affecting leaf color change and the effects of rising ozone levels on tree growth.

Details: <http://www.scienceinvestigator.org/>



We are on the Web!

<https://www3.imsa.edu/programs/fusion>

Fermilab Opportunities



Open House: Sunday, April 22, 2012 1:00p.m.-5:00p.m.

This is a party for children **who bring an adult with them** to learn about the world of physics. (There's plenty for the grown-ups, too.) Watch Mr. Freeze's fabulous cryogenics show. Explore physics concepts with hands-on activities. Ask a scientist your physics questions. And more! The Open House is most appropriate for children in grades 3 and up (tours restricted to adults and children age 10 and up).

Details: <http://ed.fnal.gov/ffse/openhouse/>



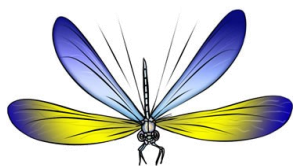
Family Outdoor Fair, June 10, 2012

Families explore the outdoor world at Fermilab through hands-on exploration with nature. Sweep for insects. Visit a real bison herd. Net for pond critters. Compare yourself to a bison. Go on a nature scavenger hunt. See how raptors see. Details: <http://ed.fnal.gov/events/outdoor-fair/>

Prairie: Our Heartland Program

What was the Midwest like 200 years ago? *The Prairie - Our Heartland* is both an interdisciplinary ecology program including free field trips to Fermilab for upper elementary students and a professional development workshop for teachers. Tens of thousands of square miles of glorious color, waves of grass, and diverse animal populations inhabit what we now call home. How—and why—has this amazing ecosystem changed? Using observation, experience, inquiries, and critical thinking, convey the story of the prairie and westward expansion to your students. This program incorporates science, language arts, mathematics, social science, and more! Immerse yourself in *The Prairie - Our Heartland*. Awaken to a whole new world!

Details: <http://ed.fnal.gov/programs/poh>



Insects in Our World Program

Discover the world of insects and inspire future entomologists! Explore three diverse areas — wetlands, prairie and woodlands — in search of insects and their relatives. Learn to identify and sort insects and how insects grow, change and work. Make your own collection for your classroom. Using science inquiry-based explorations, your apprentice entomologists will learn observation and journaling skills. On the free field trips, students will net and hunt for insects from three different habitats.

Details: http://ed.fnal.gov/lasso/program_search/show_programName.lasso?name=Insects

Phriendly Physics Program

Phriendly Physics is a physical science program including field trips to the Lederman Science Center for elementary students and a professional development program for teachers. Phriendly Physics includes a collection of classroom activities, teacher workshops and field trips. It helps K-5 teachers understand and feel comfortable with concepts of physical sciences through facilitated exploration of a series of simple, open-ended experiments, and through discussion and reflection with a master elementary school teacher and Fermilab scientists. Participants also receive equipment and supplies so they can continue to explore these concepts with their students. Topics and themes are aligned with Project 2061, the National Science Education Standards and the Illinois Learning Standards. The five-day workshop introduces participants to topics commonly taught in K-5 classrooms. After taking a workshop, teachers may schedule one or more of the four available Phriendly Physics field trips—electricity & magnetism, light, heat, and mechanics—at Fermilab.

Details: <http://ed.fnal.gov/programs/phriendly>

Fermilab Opportunities



Beauty and Charm at Fermilab

How do you study something too small to see? Beauty and Charm is both an exploratory physical science program including a Fermilab field trip for midlevel students and a professional development workshop for teachers. Beauty and Charm at Fermilab includes an instructional unit, a teacher workshop and a field trip. It is an engaging, exciting unit of study for grades 6-9 that culminates in a field trip to Fermilab. The unit is aligned with the *National Science Education Standards* and the *Illinois Learning Standards*, and features themes such as "Methods of Science," "Seeing the Unseen," and the "Human Element" of science. Teachers attend a five-day workshop in which they have the opportunity to learn by doing several of the activities in the unit. The workshop instructors provide ideas for teaching the unit and suggestions for supplementary materials. These activities will help your students gain a better understanding of how they can learn about things that can't be seen, and expose them to the world of particle physics. After attending the workshop and teaching the unit, participants may bring their students to Fermilab for a field trip to the Lederman Science Center and a special guided tour of Wilson Hall, the Linear Accelerator building and the Main Control Room. Each field trip also includes a question-and-answer session with a Fermilab scientist.

Details: <http://ed.fnal.gov/programs/beauty>

Particles and Prairies Program

Particles and Prairies field-studies program for midlevel students is based on the Particles and Prairies instructional unit developed by teachers. Teachers attend a workshop to study Fermilab field study sites, pertinent background information, and student and teacher materials. Topics and themes are aligned with the *National Science Education Standards* and the *Illinois Learning Standards*. After incorporating the activities into their curriculum, teachers may schedule free field trips at Fermilab where students become scientists by doing research that provides meaningful data for researchers and by collaborating with students from other schools in ongoing research. Teachers may purchase a kit of curriculum-related materials. The instructional materials include a DVD covering prairie history, restoration, ecology and its use as a research site. An online component, SIMply Prairie, presents the prairie study as an engaged learning project. Students ask a research question based on prairie flora and design and conduct a study by following the online guidance.

Details: <http://ed.fnal.gov/programs/pnp>

Apps



Howtosmile.org iPhone App

Take howtosmile.org anywhere and any time to find the best hands-on science and math for any age. Search all 2,000+ STEM activities and use them to teach students, family, and friends. Features include: search full collection, browse by topic, filter results, get full activity, and share activities with your friends.

Details: <http://howtosmile.org/iphone>



SATURDAY OPPORTUNITIES AT IMSA



IMSA Kids Institute proudly presents
its FUNshop.....



Pirate Science



3rd-4th grade- Treasure hunt using the scientific skills behind navigation and discover how ships sail across the ocean without sinking.

5th-6th grade- Learn the science of ship building and sailing and discover why pirates wore eye patches, and it isn't because they lost an eye!

March 17 or April 21, 2012
9:00 am -12:00 pm
At the Aurora Campus
1500 Sullivan Rd.

Space is limited in the FUNshop, so please sign up early. Need-based scholarships are available for qualified students.