

# THE W.A.L.L.

WE ALL LIVE AND LEARN



## WINTER 2011

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 **WEBINARS** that came my way!

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### 5 Tips and Tricks for Improving Your Grant Success

- ◆ 1- 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).
- ◆ 2-Talk to the funder before submitting the application, find a common ground. Offer a classroom/school visit to see your program in action.
- ◆ 3- 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.
- ◆ 4- 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.
- ◆ 5- 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

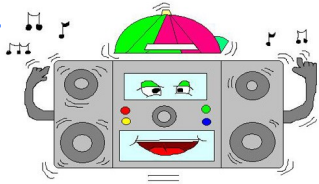
#### POP Workshops

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/



### **EngineerGirl!**

#### **Food Engineering Essay Contest—2012**

Submissions for the National Academy of Engineering's *EngineerGirl!* Food Engineering Essay Contest are now being accepted. Now in its twelfth year, the competition invites students in third through twelfth grade to write an essay about the role of engineering in providing safe and nutritious food.

**Submissions must be entered by 6:00 p.m. EST on March 1, 2012, to be considered.**

All winning entries will be published on the *EngineerGirl!* Web site and winners will receive cash prizes.

<http://www.engineergirl.org/CMS/Contest/food2012.aspx>

### **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**

### **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>.



### **Looking for Field Trip Funding?**

The IDNR Division of Education in cooperation with the Illinois Conservation Foundation offers *Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grants* for teachers in Illinois. Grants are to be used to take students on a field trip to study the natural resources of the state. The maximum grant award per teacher is \$500.

**Application deadline is January 31, 2012**

<http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/grants.htm>

## **FEATURED K-8 GRANT**

### **Lowe's Toolbox for Education**

Lowe's will donate \$5 million to public schools and public school parent teacher groups - at more than 1,000 different public schools per school year.

**Application Deadline: February 17, 2012**

<http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/hta.html>

### **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>



### **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**

[http://www.paemst.org/controllers/home.cfc?method=welcome\\_teacher&id=](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**

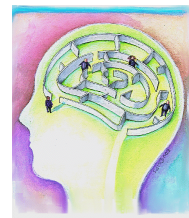
The Kinder Morgan Foundation believes that today's youth are tomorrow's leaders, and our mission is to provide them with opportunities to learn and grow. Our goal is to help today's science, math and music students become the engineers, educators and musicians who will support our diverse communities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

Details: [http://www.kindermorgan.com/community/km\\_foundation\\_submitgrant.cfm](http://www.kindermorgan.com/community/km_foundation_submitgrant.cfm)

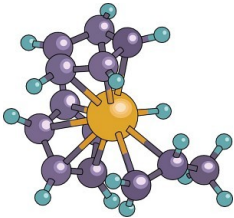
### **Funagain Games Grants: Rolling**

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](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>

### **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>



### **American Honda Foundaton: 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>

### **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>



### **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/>

## ALL LEVELS (4-8)

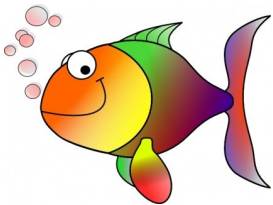


### **McCarthy Dressman Foundation-Teacher Development Grants: Deadlines~January 15, April 15**

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>

### **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](http://www.digitalwish.com/dw/digitalwish/grant_awards)



### **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/>

### **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/>

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

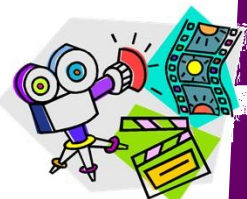
Music programs serving low-income communities, programs with little or no budget for musical instruments and music programs in school and out of school time programs.

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

### **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/>



## ALL LEVELS (4-8)



### **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>



### **It's All About the Fruit and Veggies: Deadline~February 15, 2012**

Jamba Juice and the National Gardening Association are pleased to open the It's All About the Fruits and Veggies grant program to provide schools with \$500 in gardening supplies, curriculum, soil amendments and plants to help create engaging nutrition and gardening experiences. Recipients will be selected based on plans to promote nutrition education and more.

Details: <http://www.kidsgardening.org/grants/its-all-about-fruit-and-veggies>

### **Action For Nature: Eco Hero Awards: Deadline: January 12, 2012**

Have you been working to preserve the world around you? Have you been teaching others how to protect the environment? Have you been doing an environmental research project? If your answer to any of these questions is yes, then you are a Young Eco-Hero. All Eco-Heroes serve as role models, showing others that each individual is important and can make a difference. Action For Nature is proud to honor the work of young people between the ages of 8 and 16 who have done creative environmental projects. The winners of AFN's International Young Eco-Hero Awards program receive a cash prize and a special certificate, as well as public recognition on our Web site and elsewhere.

Details: <http://www.actionfornature.org/eco-hero-awards>



### **Muhammad Ali Peace Center Garden Grants: Deadline~January 9, 2012**

The National Gardening Association is proud to announce the 2nd year of the Muhammad Ali Peace Center Peace Garden Grant sponsored program by Yum! Brands Foundation. In an effort to help all schools sow the seeds of respect, the Muhammad Ali Center Peace Garden is designed to help schools teach lessons of peace and hunger awareness through garden activities. This is a global initiative; all International countries and territories are eligible to apply. The selection of winners is based on the demonstrated relationship between the garden program and peace studies, and nutrition and hunger issues. Learn more about eligibility requirements and fill out an application online.

Details: <http://www.mypeacegarden.com/application.asp>

### **Youth Art Contest: Deadline~March 15, 2012**

The national Endangered Species Day Youth Art contest provides k-12 students with an opportunity to learn about endangered species and express their knowledge and support through artwork. Started in 2006 by the United States Congress, Endangered Species Day recognizes the importance of endangered species and is an occasion to educate the public on how to protect them. The art contest is an integral part of the seventh annual national Endangered Species Day, celebrated on May 18, 2012. The Endangered Species Day Youth Art Contest is organized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Endangered Species Coalition, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and the Ogden Museum of Southern Art/ University of New Orleans.

Details: <http://www.stopextinction.org/esd/194-esd-art.html>



## ALL LEVELS (4-8)



### **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."

Details: <http://www.irtaonline.org/foundation/programs/teachergrant.cfm>

### **ING Unsung Heros: 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>

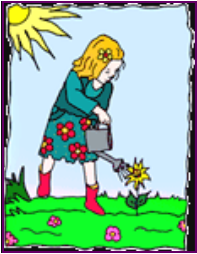
### **Whole Kids Foundation School Garden Grants: Deadline~December 31, 2011**

Through its School Garden Grant Program, the Whole Kids Foundation provides grants of \$2,000 to support school garden projects in the US, UK and Canada. Garden projects may be at any stage of development: planning, construction or operation.

Details: <http://www.wholekidsfoundation.org/gardengrants.php>



## ELEMENTARY LEVEL (4-5)



### **Annie's Grants for Gardens~Deadline: 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](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](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)**

Wanted: Classroom Innovators! Toshiba America Foundation is currently accepting applications from teachers who are passionate about making science and mathematics more engaging for their students. 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/>

### **2012 Kavli Save the World Through Science and Engineering: Deadline~March 1, 2012**

The Kavli Foundation is challenging Grades 6-12 students across the world to brainstorm and share their ideas! This year's contest theme is inspired the National Academy of Engineering's Grand Challenges. The NAE recently asked some of the world's leading technological thinkers to identify what needs to be done to make people and our planet thrive. Students worldwide are invited to submit entries to the 2012 video contest, with cash awards and prizes for the top entries.

Details: <http://www.usasciencefestival.org/2012festival/contests/kavli-video-contest>

### **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.

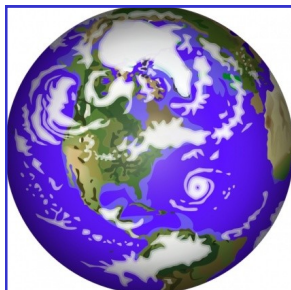
- ◆ Harnessing solar power
- ◆ Providing access to clean water
- ◆ Restoring urban infrastructure

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

### **The Volvo Adventure Competition: Deadline~ January 31, 2012**

The Volvo Adventure, in partnership with the United Nations Environment Program, is an education program that awards teams of two to five students aged 13-16 for an environmental project in their community. Finalists win an all expenses paid trip to Sweden where they compete for cash prizes.

Details: <http://www.volvoadventure.org/home.aspx>



### **MIDDLE SCHOOL Apprentice Ecologist Initiative Grant: Deadline~ December 31, 2011**

The Apprentice Ecologist Initiative seeks to engage young people in environmental stewardship projects. Students (ages 13-21) conduct a local environmental stewardship project, take digital photos of the project in action, write an essay about the project and what it meant to them.

Details: [http://www.wildernessproject.org/volunteer\\_apprentice\\_ecologist.php](http://www.wildernessproject.org/volunteer_apprentice_ecologist.php)

### **eCYBERMISSION: Registration Deadline~ December 16, 2011**

eCYBERMISSION is a free, U.S. Army sponsored competition that is geared toward increasing students' interest and participation in STEM education. Open to students' grades 6-9; the competition challenges students to think about real-world applications of STEM by working in teams to identify a problem in their community and applying the scientific method/inquiry or the engineering design process to find a solution.

Register: [https://www.ecybermission.com/public/HowTo/HowTo\\_RegisterTeams.aspx](https://www.ecybermission.com/public/HowTo/HowTo_RegisterTeams.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](http://www.cfelessonplans.org/pages/teacher_login/195.php)

## SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SCHOOLS

### Earth Science Workshop

2011-2012 marks the 200th anniversary of the historic New Madrid Earthquakes. EarthScope, a huge National Science Foundation funded project to understand the nature of the Earth's interior, will deploy 30 broadband seismometers on a 75 kilometer grid in Illinois this summer. A major theme is why do large earthquakes occur in continental interiors? Illinois EarthScope and the New Madrid Earthquakes: a new view of integrated Earth sciences is workshop for middle and high school science teachers. In the workshop, teachers will be introduced to integrated, large scale science and observe the resulting geologic features. The program will be held August 1 – 12, 2011, November 12 & 13, and **February 18 & 19, 2012**. Teachers will receive \$100/day stipend, 3 hours of graduate credit (GEOL 306.20), housing and Illinois State University meals. Workshop application and more information can be found at

Details: <http://iilt.ilstu.edu/rsnelso>

### 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>

### Global Teacher Fellowship: Deadline~January 15, 2012

Up to 25 fellowships will be awarded in 2012 to support the professional and personal development of rural teachers. The awards (up to \$5,000 for individual teachers and \$10,000 for a team of two or more teachers) support teachers' participation in self-designed summer learning experiences and a two-day place-based learning institute in the fall. Eligibility: Any K-12 teacher working full-time and teaching at least 60% time in a rural community can apply for the fellowship. Counselors, media specialists and other school personnel working in a teaching setting for at least 60% of their paid work time may also apply.

Details: <http://www.globalteacherfellowship.ruraledu.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

Induction into the Golden Apple Academy of Educators

Details: [http://www.goldenapple.org/pages/awards\\_and\\_recognition/2.php](http://www.goldenapple.org/pages/awards_and_recognition/2.php)



## National Geographic 2012 Hands-On Explorer Challenge Contest: Deadline~January 7, 2012

Do you love to explore the world around you? Enter this year's contest and you could win a trip to Montana. Entries must be postmarked by January 7, 2012.

Details: <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/contests/explorer-trip-2012/>

## 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>



## National STEM Video Game Challenge: Deadline: March 12, 2012

Inspired by the Educate to Innovate campaign, President Obama's initiative to promote a renewed focus on STEM education, the National STEM Video Game Challenge aims to motivate interest in STEM learning among America's youth by tapping into students' natural passions for playing and making video games. The 2011 Challenge features two competitions, a Youth Prize (grades 5-8) and a Developer Prize (open to emerging and experienced game developers).

Details: <http://www.stemchallenge.org/Default.aspx>

## AWARDS & COMPETITIONS

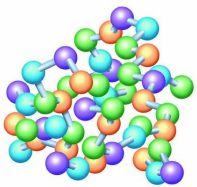


### **The Green Thumb Challenge: Rolling**

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](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.

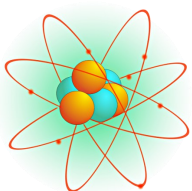
Details: [http://school.fueluptoplay60.com/funds/funds\\_for\\_futp60.php](http://school.fueluptoplay60.com/funds/funds_for_futp60.php)

### **The 2012 DuPont Challenge®—More Prizes Than Ever Before!: Deadline~January 31, 2012**

Applications are now being accepted for the DuPont Challenge Science Essay Competition. Now in its 26th year, the program invites students in seventh through twelfth grade to write a 700- to 1,000-word essay about a scientific discovery, theory, event or technological application that has captured their interest. Developed in collaboration with The Walt Disney World Resort, NASA and NSTA, the competition offers young students the opportunity to explore science, develop new skills and gain confidence in communicating scientific ideas. At stake is \$100,000 in prizes including savings bonds, educator grants, expenses-paid trips to Walt Disney World and the Kennedy Space Center, and much more! Sponsoring teachers can also earn an expenses-paid trip to the 2013 NSTA National Conference on Science Education in San Antonio.

Details: <http://thechallenge.dupont.com/>

### **EPA Announces New Award for Environmental Educators: Application Deadline~December 30, 2011**



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announces the 2011 Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators Program. The program, which will be implemented through a partnership between the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and EPA, recognizes outstanding K-12 teachers who employ innovative approaches to environmental education and use the environment as a context for learning for their students. Two teachers from each EPA region will be selected to receive the award. Recipients will receive a commemorative plaque and an award of \$2000, to be used to further their professional development in environmental education. Additionally, the local education agency employing each teacher will receive an award of \$2000 to further the recipient's environmental educational activities and programs. EPA and CEQ will announce the inaugural award winners in the spring of 2012.

Details: <http://www.epa.gov/education/teacheraward/>



## 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.

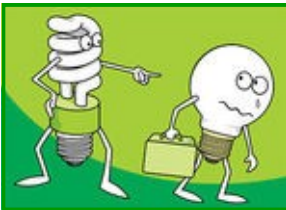
Details: <http://www.boxtops4education.com/Default.aspx>



### 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/>

## 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](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.ptotoday.com/sfn/SFN\\_homepage\\_leader.php](http://www.ptotoday.com/sfn/SFN_homepage_leader.php)

### **IMSA on Wheels ASSEMBLY SHOW**

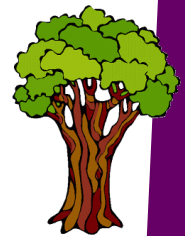
IMSA on Wheels is a mobile science theater offered to elementary schools throughout the Chicagoland area. IMSA on Wheels is an assembly-style show for elementary students in grades three through five; it is designed to spark student interest in science and encourage learning.. The program is sponsored by a grant from 3M and BP. Similar to other Kids Institute programs, IMSA on Wheels is developed and taught by IMSA students with supervision from IMSA faculty and staff.

Details: <http://www.imsa.edu/programs/kidsinstitute/wheels/>

### **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](http://www.takemefishing.org)

## 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. The series debuted in 2009 and has been critically acclaimed for its efforts at showcasing real jobs in actual high-tech fields, and the educational paths to them. 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.

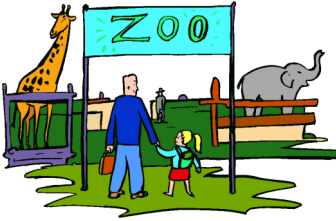
Details: <http://schoolofants.org/about>

### **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=](http://www.microsoft.com/education/en-us/teachers/guides/Pages/free-tools.aspx?qstr=CR_CC=&CR_ID=)

# 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.

- *Prying into Prions: Investigating Chronic Wasting Disease* (online), January 9-22, 2012
- *Tracks, Scats and Habitats*, Fullersburg Woods, Oak Brook, January 19, 2012
- *Illinois' Urban Wildlife*, Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Chicago, February 11, 2012
- *Mammals from Illinois' Past* (online), February 13-26, 2012
- *Lake Michigan Fishes* (online), March 12-25, 2012
- *Illinois Birds*, Fermilab, Batavia, March 17, 2012
- *Invasive Exotic Plants*, Hamilton County High School, McLeansboro, March 31, 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>



## **Earth Expeditions: Application Deadline~January 28, 2012**

Earth Expeditions' graduate field courses have two components: an intensive experience at an international field site in one of 11 global locations and semester-long work on the web culminating in a conservation action project in your school or community.

Details: <http://EarthExpeditions.org>

## **Earth Science on the New Madrid Seismic Zone at Waubensee Community College in Sugar Grove**

The New Madrid Seismic Zone is the most seismically active region in the Central United States today, and is famous for a series of 3 major earthquakes in 1811 and 1812. This special topics class will explore the geology, tectonics, seismology, and history of the New Madrid Seismic Zone to understand how and why these events occurred, and to explore the potential of future activity. Historical accounts of the 1811 and 1812 events will be studied, which will be combined with current theories of future activity to assess potential dangers to a repeat of these events in Modern times. The class meets 2 Saturdays from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, February 4, 2012, February 11, 2012.

Details: [www.waubonsee.edu](http://www.waubonsee.edu)



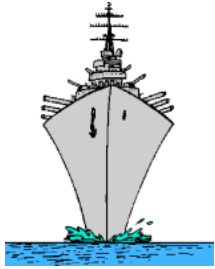
# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



## **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](http://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](http://www.nasaepdn.gatech.edu/course_schedules.php)

## **Northwestern University Research Experience for Teachers: Registration Deadline–March 15, 2012**

An exciting summer development opportunity- Northwestern University Materials Research Science and Engineering Center's **Research Experience for Teachers**. Science teachers are invited to participate in eight weeks of laboratory research with some of Northwestern's leading scientists. Research topics include a wide range of materials science, physics and chemistry areas such as ceramics, nanocomposites, photonics, nanoparticles, and molecular electronics. The program runs from **June 18 through August 10, 2012** and carries an **\$8,500 stipend**. At the end of the eight weeks, the participants not only write a technical paper based on their research, but also develop a curriculum project that they can use in their classrooms. K-12 teachers and community college professors who have a bachelor's degree in science or engineering are eligible; no prior research experience is necessary. Participants are eligible to receive graduate credits through the National Louis University.

Details: [http://www.mrsec.northwestern.edu/content/educational\\_programs/ret.htm](http://www.mrsec.northwestern.edu/content/educational_programs/ret.htm)



## **National Geographic Education: Registration Deadline: January 31, 2012**

National Geographic, in collaboration with Lindblad Expeditions and Google, is proud to announce that applications are now being accepted for the 2012 Grosvenor Teacher Fellow Program. Selected fellows will travel on a once-in-a-lifetime adventure to the Arctic, as well as to National Geographic headquarters in Washington, D.C., for professional development prior to the trip. The program celebrates excellence in geographic education and is meant to reward teachers committed to National Geographic's goal of inspiring students to care about the planet. If you are a teacher who has demonstrated a commitment to these values in your work.

Details: <http://newsletters.nationalgeographic.com/174676e1alayfousubpyhekaaaaaabxr5rkncr5oaxiyaaaaa>

## 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/>

### **Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant**

Take your students on a field trip to study some aspect of Illinois' biodiversity. Application Deadline: January 31, 2012

Details: <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/Classrm/grants.htm>

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:mark.yehling@illinois.gov)



### **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/>

## 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>



## FREE GRANT WRITING WEBINARS

### Free Webinar - Grant Writing For Beginners

Grant writing is not about writing a grant but about selling a story. Good grant writers follow a proven formula that results in successful funding and "most importantly" grant implementation.

#### Grant Writing for beginners will cover:

- The do's and don'ts of grant writing.
- Critical elements necessary for getting your grant funded.
- Strategies and support provided by Peaceful Playgrounds in your grant writing efforts.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear practical advice from an experienced and successful grant writer. Dr. Bossenmeyer's grant writing has secured more than \$10 Million in funded educational grants.

Wed, Dec 7, 2011 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM PST - [Free registration for this date!](#)

Thu, Jan 5, 2012 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM PST - [Free registration for this date!](#)

ALL TIMES ARE PACIFIC STANDARD TIME ZONE

**Registration for January 5, 2012:**  
<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/613585754>

### SSP Fellowship Application: Now Open

With generous support from the Intel Foundation, the SSP Fellowship provides funds and training to selected U.S. science and math teachers of under-resourced students. SSP encourages any eligible and interested teacher to apply.

Details: <http://www.societyforscience.org/fellowship/application>

*"The SSP fellowship is the best kept secret in science education! Here is your chance to encourage students to excel in science while building your STEM program. This is absolutely the best opportunity available for teachers on the planet! My students are thrilled to explore their self-designed research projects with the funds provided by this grant; not only are they winning scholarships at regional science fairs but they have reached the Intel ISEF too. This fellowship gave me that boost I needed to teach, I no longer had to worry about where the money would come from to fund my programs, I could concentrate on teaching while my students experienced authentic learning through science research. This is the creme-d-creme of science grants, it should be a model for improving science across the nation, I strongly encourage all teachers to apply for the SSP fellowship!"*

Mike Lampert  
 SSP Fellow 2010  
 Salem, OR