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1. FIREFLY FUN

Imagine a perfect summer evening. Dewy grass tickles your bare feet. Stars twinkle overhead, and flashing fireflies are everywhere, lighting up the trees and grass like Christmas! If fireflies live near you, look for them on warm nights early in the summer. Here are some fun firefly ideas.

**\*\*Watch the Light Show.** Look for males flashing as they fly and females twinkling in one place. See if you can figure out their flash patterns. Are they all one species or several different ones?

**\*\*Talk Back.** Using a small flashlight, try imitating the patterns you see. If you flash the male's pattern, a female may flash back. Try the female's response; you may lure a male right to your fingertips!

**\*\*Catch and Release.** For a close-up look, catch a few fireflies in a jar. Check them out and then let them go, of course.

**\*\*Be Firefly-Friendly.** Make your neighborhood a good habitat for fireflies. Turn off bright outdoor lights, which "drown out" fireflies' messages. Avoid lawn chemicals. Plant trees, shrubs, and grasses to provide places for the beetles to rest and hide. Then sit back and enjoy the light show!

Source: Kate Hofmann & National Wildlife Federation

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2. TOSHIBA AMERICA FOUNDATION GRANTS

Applications for grants under \$5,000 are accepted year-round. Check the Web site for grades K-6 and 7-12 application rules. Deadline for grants over \$5,000: February 1st or August 1st

The Toshiba America Foundation encourages teacher-led, K-12 classroom-based programs, projects, and activities that have the potential to improve classroom experiences in science, mathematics, and

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

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### 3. " DO SOMETHING" BRICK AWARDS

Deadline: October 25, 2006

The Do Something BRICK Awards honors 6 outstanding leaders age 18 and under and 3 outstanding leaders age 19-25 who develop projects to improve their community. Winners in "18 yrs. & under" category receive a \$5,000 scholarship and a \$5,000 grant; winners in the "19-25" category each receive a \$10,000 grant. Online application only.

<http://www.dosomething.org/awards/brick/apply/>

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### 4. PRESIDENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH AWARDS DEADLINE EXTENDED

Deadline: October 31st

President's Environmental Youth Awards (PEYA) recognizes young people across America for projects that demonstrate their commitment to the environment. K-12 students sponsored by an adult submit evidence of a completed project as defined in the application to their local EPA regional office. For details, go to

<http://epa.gov/enviroed/awards.html>

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### 5. FUND FOR WILD NATURE

Deadline: November 3, 2006

The Fund for Wild Nature is for campaigns to save and restore native species and wild ecosystems, and actions to defend wilderness and biological diversity.

Pertinent information can be found at

<http://www.fundwildnature.org/proposal.html> .

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### 6. "RED, WHITE, AND GREEN" CLIMATE CHANGE GRANT

Deadline: September 1, 2006

This grant opportunity from Youth Service America and the Civil Society Institute is for young people (ages 15-25) to implement a service-learning project about climate change that engages both their community and candidates running for election in November 2006.

Projects should be youth-led and must take place between October 1 and November 30, 2006. <http://www.ysa.org/awards/>

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### 7. STARBUCKS FOUNDATION GRANTS

Letters of Inquiry are reviewed twice per year during two periods:

February 1st - March 1st and August 1st - September 1st.

Starbucks Giving Voice Grant funds programs for youth that integrate literacy with personal and civic action in the communities where they live. Grants range from \$5,000-\$20,000.

<http://www.starbucks.com/aboutus/grantinfo.asp?cookie%5Ftest=1>

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### 8. "A CRITICAL DECISION" CREATIVE CHALLENGE

"A Critical Decision" site poses a creative challenge to artists of all disciplines to create works that communicate the impact of overpopulation and wasteful consumption to motivate humanity toward positive change.

<http://www.acriticaldecision.org/links/a-challenge-to-the-arts.html>

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#### 9. NOAA'S EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) June 2006 online magazine highlights a plethora of educational opportunities for students pursuing educational interests or considering careers in NOAA areas of expertise (e.g., ocean and atmospheric

<http://www.magazine.noaa.gov/stories/mag201.htm#science/research>, fisheries, satellites, weather, etc.).

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#### 10. USGS EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

This U.S. Geological Survey Web site offers an extensive selection of educational resources online - by grade level - that support teaching, learning, K-12 education, and university-level inquiry and research.

<http://education.usgs.gov/index.html>

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#### 11. WILD ILLINOIS HISTORY

Wild Illinois History is for educators and students studying Illinois' cultural and natural history. The online interactive activity supplements history instruction by focusing on early French exploration and settlement, riparian and settlement geography, and the uses of wildlife by Native Americans and early settlers compared with wildlife uses today. Much of the information is applicable to Alabama's

history. <http://www.wildillinois.org/>

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#### 12. FROG CALLS VIDEOS

Frog calls and documentary video clips of scientists discussing frog issues, including declining amphibians and malformed frogs.

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

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#### 13. GUIDELINES FOR SAFE RECREATIONAL WATER ENVIRONMENTS: SWIMMING

##### POOLS AND SIMILAR ENVIRONMENTS

[http://www.who.int/water\\_sanitation\\_health/bathing/bathing2/en/](http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/bathing/bathing2/en/)

The world's first-ever international guidelines on how to create safe places to swim and bathe were launched recently. The guidelines aim to protect people from the risks associated with swimming pools, spas and other recreational bathing areas and complement volume 1 of the series that deals with coastal and freshwaters.

The Guidelines for Safe Recreational Water Environments: Swimming Pools

and Similar Environments include both specific values for contaminants and a set of recommended best practices to support safe management and use of recreational waters, pools and spas and prevent unnecessary disease and injury. They address a wide range of hazards, including the improper use of recreational facilities and how improvement could prevent drowning and injury; risks from poor water quality; the contamination of facilities such as pools and hot-tubs; and air quality in indoors bathing facilities.

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#### 14. YSA YOUTH VENTURE FUNDING (Now Available)

Get up to \$1,000 in start-up funds for sustainable N&GYSD projects by joining the YSA Youth Venture Program! Through partial funding from the

US Department of Justice, Youth Service America (YSA) and Youth Venture,

Inc. are teaming up again to make every day National & Global Youth Service Day (N&GYSD).

YSA is giving young people the opportunity to create sustainable National Youth Service Day projects for N&GYSD 2007, April 20-22! YSA and Youth Venture are offering funding to enable young people to engage

in community service and make a difference in their world. Thirty awards

of up to \$1,000 in start-up funds will be available to young people (ages 12-20) who want to create new, sustainable and civic-minded organizations, clubs or businesses ("ventures"). These ventures must be

youth-led and designed to be a lasting asset to the community. YSA Youth

Venture teams are required to plan a N&GYSD project every year that their venture is operational

For application help sheets and more information about YSA Youth Venture, please visit [www.youthventure.org/ysa](http://www.youthventure.org/ysa).

Applications must be received by 5:00pmEST on July 24th, 2006. It is encouraged (but not required) that all applications be submitted electronically via email. Please direct all inquiries to

[amutima@youthventure.org](mailto:amutima@youthventure.org).

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#### 15. PREVENTING WILDLIFE INJURIES

Wild animals often get orphaned or injured. So what can you do to help wildlife from needing to be rescued in the first place? Follow these tips:

\*\*If you have a cat, please keep it inside. Outdoor cats often harm wildlife, especially birds, lizards, and small mammals

\*\*If you're a dog owner, it's wise to keep an eye on Fido when he's outside. Don't let him chase, "play with," or attack wildlife.

\*\*Lots of birds are injured or killed by flying into patio doors or picture windows. To prevent this, hang curtains or streamers-or put several bird silhouettes on the window or door-anything to break up the open expanse of glass.

\*\*Remember to leave nests, burrows, or other wildlife homes alone.

\*\*Don't litter, and please pick up litter and trash that could harm wildlife, such as six-pack connectors and nylon fishing line.

\*\*Don't try to keep and raise wild animals yourself. (Only a licensed wildlife rehabilitator can do this.) It's often against the law, and wild creatures don't make good pets. Keeping them can do more harm than good--to both you and the animals.

To find out how to make your backyard wildlife-friendly, check out the National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Wildlife Habitat program at <http://www.nwf.org/backyard/>.

Source: National Wildlife Federation

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"Teaching a child not to step on a caterpillar is as valuable to the child, as it is to the caterpillar."

--Bradley Miller