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1. RC&D GRANT DEADLINES APPROACHING!

There are nine Resource, Conservation & Development (RC&D) Councils across Alabama that provide grants to help people protect and develop their economic, natural, and social resources in ways that improve their area's economy, environment, and quality of life. Many RC&D Councils provide grant funding for local schools that want to develop Outdoor Classroom sites.

Some of their grant deadlines are approaching quickly, so contact your area RC&D Council as soon as possible.

2. SCHOOL VIDEO CONTEST

September 1, 2007 - April 30, 2008

QuantumShift.tv, a Web TV network featuring solution-oriented news, documentaries, and entertainment, is challenging students and teachers at all K-

12 schools in the US and Canada to document their work on a social or environmental project through a series of short videos over the 2007-08 school year. The winning schools will receive a prize package worth \$50,000 in cash and educational resources. Participants document their progress in four short videos that will be uploaded on QuantumShift.tv every two months from September-April. <http://www.quantumshift.tv/schools/>

3. OUTDOOR CLASSROOM GRANTS

Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation, International Paper and National Geographic Explorer! classroom magazine have partnered to create an outdoor classroom grant program to provide schools with additional resources to improve their science curriculum by engaging students in hands-on experiences outside the traditional classroom. All K-12 public schools in the United States (excluding Puerto Rico) are welcome to apply. While supplies last, Lowe's will send all reviewed applicants the International Paper's Life of the Forest Classroom Kit. The free kit, which contains 10 full-color posters, 10 teaching guides and 20 booklets, can be used in your classroom at your discretion.

This school year, the program will award grants up to \$2,000 to at least 100 schools. In some cases, grants for up to \$20,000 may be awarded to schools or school districts with major outdoor classroom projects. The grants can be used to build a new outdoor classroom or to enhance a current outdoor classroom at the school.

Grants will be reviewed three times a year. Only complete online applications, with all supporting documents, will be considered. You will be notified via email if your grant proposal was declined.

Apply September 1- December 31, receive notification by mid January.

Apply January 1 - April 30, receive notification by mid May.

Apply May 1- August 31, receive notification by mid September.

<http://eeinalabama.org/net/content/go.aspx?s=40422.0.115.37934>

4. AWARDS FOR EVERYDAY HEROES

Deadline: October 15, 2007

The Volvo for Life Awards is an annual search for and celebration of everyday heroes -- ordinary people who are making a positive difference in the lives of others. Three extra-ordinary citizens will receive a \$100,000 charitable contribution to the charity of his or her choice, with one going on to receive the title "America's Greatest Hometown Hero."

<http://www.volvoforlifeawards.com/cgi-bin/iowa/english/home/index.html>

5. "PAY IT FORWARD" FOUNDATION MINIGRANTS

Pay it Forward Foundation offers minigrants (from \$50 to \$500) to fund service-oriented projects designed by youth to support their school, neighborhood, or greater community. Application deadlines are January 15, April 15 and October 15 of each year.

<http://eeinalabama.org/net/content/go.aspx?s=29648.0.115.37934>

6. PRESIDENT ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH AWARD

Deadline: October 31, 2007

Less than two months are left until the deadline to apply for the President Environmental Youth Award (PEYA). All youth who apply have an excellent chance of winning; just ask last year's winners, the "Going Batty" girls from Oklahoma. Check out their story:

<http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/peya/peya2006.html#6>

7. AMERICAN HONDA FOUNDATION GRANTS

The American Honda Foundation makes grants to K-12 schools, colleges, universities, trade schools, and others for programs that benefit youth and scientific education. The foundation seeks programs that are scientific, creative, humanistic, youthful, innovative, and more.

In general, grant ranges of \$10,000 - \$100,000 will apply to requests of a one-time only basis, payable in one lump sum, within one quarter's (3 months) grantmaking. Multiple year associations or grant requests made payable over more than one quarter could be proportionately higher. The average grant range is \$40,000 to \$80,000 per year.

The American Honda Foundation makes grants on a quarterly schedule. Application deadlines are February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1.

<http://eeinalabama.org/net/content/go.aspx?s=22786.0.115.37934>

8. DAVID, HELEN, AND MARIAN WOODWARD \$10,000 TO \$300,000 GRANTS

Deadline: November 1, 2007.

This fund has awarded over 2 million dollars to organizations in and around the state of Georgia for educational and charitable purposes. The

http://www.wachovia.com/corp_inst/charitable_services/0,,4269_3302,00.html

9. LORRIE OTTO "SEEDS FOR EDUCATION" GRANT PROGRAM

Deadline: November 15.

The Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Grant Program gives small monetary grants to schools, nature centers, or other non-profit educational organizations for the purpose of establishing outdoor learning centers. Funds will be provided only for the purchase of native plants and seed.

<http://eeinalabama.org/net/content/go.aspx?s=33092.0.115.37934>

10. "DO SOMETHING" BRICK AWARDS FOR YOUTH

The Do Something BRICK Award honors outstanding leaders in two categories: age 18 and under and age 19-25, who use their talents to take action that measurably strengthens their local communities in the areas of community building, health, or the environment.

Each of the "18 and under" winners is awarded a \$5,000 higher education scholarship and a \$5,000 community grant (to be directed by the award winner). Winners in the "19-25" category each receive a \$10,000 community grant. Four Golden BRICK winners will be selected from the group of twelve winners via an online voting system. Each Golden BRICK winner receives an extra \$15,000 for a total of \$25,000. All winners receive Pro Bono Services, and all winners attend the annual BRICK Awards Gala event in New York City, which celebrates their accomplishments. Do Something works closely with BRICK winners to generate local and national media coverage of their work, and to spotlight what young people can achieve.

All BRICK Award applications due online by 11:59 pm EST on December 1, 2007.

<http://eeinalabama.org/net/content/go.aspx?s=22785.0.115.37934>

11. "P3: PEOPLE, PROSPERITY, AND THE PLANET" STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Proposals Due by December 20, 2007

EPA is seeking applications for its P3: People, Prosperity, and the Planet Student Design Competition for Sustainability. The competition focuses on research, development, and the design of solutions to address real world challenges involving sustainability. EPA offers the P3 competition in order to respond to the technical needs of the developed and developing world while moving toward the goal of sustainability.

For application information, go to

http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2008/2008_p3.html. For more information about the program, see <http://www.epa.gov/ncer/P3>.

12. LOWE'S CHARITABLE & EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION GRANTS

The Lowe's Charitable & Educational Foundation awards more than \$3 million annually to diverse organizations across the United States. The Foundation provides funding only to 501(c) (3) tax-exempt nonprofit organizations and public agencies in communities where Lowe's operates stores and distribution centers. Primary philanthropic focus areas are:

Community improvement projects
K-12 Public School Initiatives
Vocational Trade School Scholarships

Grants range from \$5,000 to \$50,000. No deadline given.

<http://eeinalabama.org/net/content/go.aspx?s=28094.0.115.37934>

13. AIR RIFLE POSTAL LEAGUE

Northwest High School JROTC Department is hosting the Seventh Annual International Air Rifle Postal League (5 Matches). This is a great opportunity for teams to compete Internationally at a limited cost. This postal is an excellent way for air rifle teams to compete with Army JROTC, Marine Corp JROTC, Navy JROTC, other 4 H, and Canadian Cadet League Air Rifle Teams.

Every team has a winner in each match. The top shooter from each team in each match will receive a Military Style Medal.

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Official Match Program for International Air Rifle Postal League

Hosted by: NORTHWEST High School, 800 Lafayette Road, JROTC Department
CLARKSVILLE, TN 37042; E-mail: ffordcar@aol.com

Every shooter and team, regardless of the type of equipment they use or their level of experience, will have an opportunity to compete for awards in this high quality competition. This postal match is going to be the most prestigious match for the youth of the world in 2007-2008. We challenge you and your team to participate in this world-class competition and hope this challenge is met with the spirit of sportsmanship we know your organization possesses.

This International Postal League will be held from 1 October 2007 through 31 March 2008. Each team top shooter will receive a medallion in all five matches. Teams will have the option of competing in one of two categories:

Sporter or Precision.

There will be five matches held for this League; each match will receive trophies for the top four Teams in each category. There will be an overall first place trophy awarded for the number one team in each category for the League.

Entry Fee: Teams competing in International Postal League all five matches cost will be \$125.00
or \$30.00 for each individual match per four (4) person team. (No refunds.)

RULES: National Standard 3-Position Air Rifle rules will

apply.

Seventh Annual International Air Rifle Postal Match/Postal League

Military Style Medals given to the top shooter from each team in each match, Coaches will award the Medals at the completions of each match.

Trophies will be awarded to the top four teams in each match, in each category. The Team coach with most wins or if a tie the highest aggregated team score in each category will receive an award and the title of "INTERNATIONAL Air Rifle Postal (SPORTER or PRECISION) COACH OF THE YEAR 2007"

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: INTERNATIONAL POSTAL CLEARING HOUSE AND MAIL TO:

SGM CHARLES R. FORD (RET), 932 Red Bird Lane, Cumberland Furnace, TN 37051;

Phone # 931-387-2255

MAIL ENTRY FORM TO INTERNATIONAL POSTAL CLEARING HOUSE

932 Red Bird Lane

Cumberland Furnace, TN 37051

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CLUB/SCHOOL_____

ADDRESS (type or print)

E-MAIL_____ Phone number_____

CHECK THE MATCHES TEAMS WILL COMPETE IN:

____ INTERNATIONAL AIR RIFLE POSTAL LEAGUE
(\$125.00 US DOLLARS)

A team may enter individual match at a coast of \$30.00 US Dollars per 4- person team, if an individual enters a match it is \$5.00 additional per match.

- ___ INTERNATIONAL AIR
- ___ NORTH AMERICAN CUP
- ___ MAPLE LEAF CLASSIC
- ___ SERGEANT YORK CUP
- ___ TREASURE COAST CLASSIC

Total number of teams _____

Sporter_____

Precision_____

Total amount of entry Fees _____

(If international Team please pay in American Currency)

NO cash or credit cards will be accepted; NO Refunds

Make checks or money orders payable to:

International Postal Clearing House

932 RED Bird Lane

Cumberland Furnace, TN 37051

Signature

Date

14. 2008 EEAA CONFERENCE

The 2008 EEAA Conference will be held at Blue Lake United Methodist Assembly <<http://www.bluelakecamp.com/>> near Andalusia. The dates are January 31 - February 3, 2008.

15. 2008 LEGACY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE

2008 Legacy EE Partnership Conference will be at Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach on February 27-29. For more information, go to http://www.legacyenved.org/events/events_conf.htm .

16. DISPOSABLE DIAPERS

Some birds have an ingenious way of keeping their nests clean. Why isn't a bird's nest badly soiled by the time the young leave?

Nest sanitation is very important if the young are to remain healthy. Most songbirds and woodpeckers have a clever way to ensure that their nests stay clean and odor-free.

The young produce a fecal (FEE-cal) sac that encloses their wastes. The sac is a clean, tough, mucous membrane that is usually expelled as the young are fed. The parents simply carry the sac away and drop it far from the nest. No muss, no fuss! <http://www.enaturalist.org/unit/252>

Source: Electronic Naturalist

17. COPY.CAT

Look-alikes of dangerous animals have a good survival strategy.

If you're a wasp, you're safe from most predators. But what if you LOOK like a wasp? Animals that closely resemble or act like others are called mimics and the animals they mimic are called models - a great survival tactic.

Mimicking animals often look and/or act so much like other dangerous or bad-tasting animals that they're misidentified and unlikely to be eaten. A copycat reaps survival benefits from the animal it looks like. A mimic's imitation isn't a perfect copy but sometimes only a bit of hesitation from a predator is all an animal needs to escape.

<http://www.enaturalist.org/unit/258>

Source: Electronic Naturalist

18. EPA LAUNCHES 'GO GREEN!' NEWSLETTER

In order to help people become more environmentally responsible, this monthly email newsletter from the U.S. EPA will provide information on activities to use anywhere, including home, workplaces, schools, and communities.

<http://www.epa.gov/newsroom/gogreen/>

19. IT'S ELEMENTARY

Heavily shaded streams don't begin their food chain beneath the water. All food chains begin with plants and they rely on the sun - that's elementary. But many tiny brooks that flow into streams, rivers and lakes begin in heavily wooded areas where the sun rarely reaches the water in summer. So how can these streams have such abundant life without plants growing in the water?

In heavily shaded brooks, most plant food is from leaves that fall into the water from the surrounding land, not plants living IN the water. Every fall, tiny brooks are showered with leaves that provide the base of the food chain for aquatic animals.

In streams where there are few trees and the sun can reach the water, plants can grow abundantly on stream bottoms and provide that important link in the food chain. For additional information, go to

<http://www.enaturalist.org/unit/267>

Source: The Electronic Naturalist

20. BUZZ OFF!

Even though we've had a dry summer, we can't let our guard down now. September and October are the height of the West Nile virus season. Here's what you can do to protect yourself and your family from those buzzy, bothersome biters!

Seven Tips for Keeping Mosquitoes Off YOU!

1. Use an insect repellent. Look for ones with a chemical called DEET—most people agree that these work best. For kids, repellents with smaller amounts of DEET are a good idea. You can also spray the outside of your clothes with a repellent containing the chemical *permethrin*. If you prefer a non-chemical product, use ones containing oil of lemon eucalyptus. Be sure to follow the directions on any product that you use and don't let young kids apply it on themselves.
2. Forget home remedies. Eating garlic or other foods or taking certain Vitamin B don't work! Skip them.
3. Wear loose-fitting, light-colored clothing that covers your arms and legs. Dark and bright colors both seem to attract mosquitoes. So wear the most boring clothing you have—such as gray, khaki, white, beige, or olive green.
4. Ditch the smelly stuff. If you're planning to go outside, avoid using perfume, shampoo, soap, or lotions with a strong scent. Skeeters seem to be attracted to these.
5. Go in when the skeeters are out. Mosquitoes are more common as the sun is going down and at night. So you might want to stay indoors then.
6. Go where the skeeters aren't. Mosquitoes like heat, humidity, and still air. That's why you'll run into more skeeters in a swamp or damp forest than you will in an open field or windy hilltop.
7. Hit skeeters where they live. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in water. So have your family get rid of—or frequently dump out—anything that can hold standing water, such as old tires, buckets, flower pots, and plastic wading pools. And don't forget to regularly add new water to birdbaths.

Source: National Wildlife Federation

21. NIGHT SKY

Does the sky look the same all night? Investigate this question with your child on a warm early fall evening.

What you need:

3 index cards
black marker

What you do:

Have your child draw identical pictures of the front of your house or apartment building on all three cards. Have your child include any front walkways, trees, or shrubs.

Go outside on a clear night. Face your home and look at the sky. On one of the index cards, have your child draw the stars and the moon as they appear in the night sky.

Repeat this activity an hour later, and then two hours later.

Ask your child:

What is the same in your drawing? *(The house or apartment building, walkways, trees, shrubs, etc.)*

What is different? *(The position of the moon and stars in the sky.)*

What does this show? *(The stars and moon seem to change position in the sky over time.)*

Source: National Wildlife Federation

22. NEW 4-HTAX EXEMPTION FACT SHEETS

Three new fact sheets related to 4-H tax exempt status are now available in the following three categories: exempt status for 4-H clubs and affiliated 4-H organizations, electronic filing requirements for 4-H groups and certification of 4-H groups under national 4-H tax exempt status.

**Tax Exempt Status for 4-H Clubs and Affiliated 4-H Organizations

This fact sheet details the benefits of the special tax exempt status granted by the IRS to 4-H, which groups can be included, and steps to take to gain inclusion under the national 4-H GEN (including how to obtain an official letter documenting inclusion as a tax exempt group and a sample form for obtaining the EIN).

** Electronic Filing Requirements for 4-H Groups

This fact sheet details the new IRS requirements for all small tax exempt groups and organizations. The important item to note is that ALL small tax exempt groups will now be required to electronically file, not just those raising \$25,000.00 or more.

Several states have contacted National 4-H Council asking if 4-H clubs can get an exemption from the new electronic filing requirements. Given that the new requirements were created for organizations such as 4-H which have a parent organization and a large number of subsidiaries, we will not be granted an exemption. In the past, it has been impossible for us to document to the IRS an accurate listing of our subsidiaries. This has resulted in legitimate 4-H clubs getting eliminated from our listing, and has allowed groups not authorized as part of 4-H to slip in and register for exempt status without our knowledge.

****Certification of 4-H Groups under National 4-H Tax Exempt Status**

This fact sheet details the new process, required by the IRS, for certifying our subsidiary organizations as legitimate groups. This year, state lists of clubs and organizations will be forwarded in October and your office(s) will have until December to review, make changes, and return your state listing. The returned list will need to include a formal signed letter, indicating that your institution certifies that included groups meet all requirements and are groups in good standing within your program.

These Fact Sheets and additional materials can all be found at www.national4-hheadquarters.gov. Look for the tax exempt link in the banner running along the left-hand side of the screen.

23. WIGGLY, WONDERFUL WORMS

Squatting in the grass, my son is doing one of his favorite post-rain activities: looking for worms! Small ones, fat ones, long ones -- he loves them all.

I watch him pick one up, putting it in his palm. I notice how he wets his hand in the damp grass first, remembering a lesson he'd learned at our local nature center. "Worms like wet!" he always says.

My daughter and I join him. She's gotten more comfortable with worms in the past few months; I'm still working on it. She picks one up too, and they giggle as the worms wiggle in their small palms.

I go back to the house for a ruler. The kids measure their worms, my daughter carefully taking notes in her journal. Wendy, my daughter's worm, wins by about a quarter of an inch.

I sit and watch them chatting and giggling about their worms. Wendy is gently returned to the soil of my daughter's flower bed. "She'll like it there," she says simply.

"I know she will," I reply with a smile. Even if I'm not quite ready to hold one, I'm glad the kids enjoy them so much.

Worm Safari

- Did you go on a worm safari? Who found the largest worm? The fattest?
- Do some backyard math. Measure your worms and count how many segments each one has. Or, take inventory. Get a yardstick and see how many worms you can find in a square of grass measuring 3 feet on each side. Record your observations in your nature journal.

For background information and additional activity ideas, go to <http://www.greenhour.org/content/activity/detail/2040> .

Source: National Wildlife Federation

24. HIGH-WIRE ACT

Some frogs can be found in unusual places.

We usually picture frogs sitting quietly at the edge of ponds, streams and in wet meadows! But not all frogs live in this kind of habitat - many kinds live above ground!

Members of the treefrog family are found across a large area of North America. These small frogs spend much of their time crawling around in trees, shrubs and low plants, sometimes far from water. Many are active at night, so this along with their small size and habitat means you're much more likely to hear these frogs than see them.

Toe pads on treefrogs help them crawl about without falling. Toe pad size varies quite a bit in this family and not all are as well-equipped for life in the trees. But for those species that are, they really are well adapted for their high-wire act! <http://www.enaturalist.org/unit/260>

Source: Electronic Naturalist

25. HOW WAS THE GREENEST BUILDING BUILT?

The Common Fire Housing Co-op is the first Platinum building in New York State and the "Greenest" building in the Eastern USA, as certified by the U.S. Green Building Council. This site provides an in-depth approach to the concept and need for green building as well as the details of the Common Fire project. It also provides a specific link for educators, with a teacher's guide to the site.

<http://www.commonfire.org/community/greenwelcome.html>