

# Environmental Education

For Tomorrow's Stewards

December 2018

## This Month

Is...

### All About Birds

Tis the season to migrate! With the weather turning colder, birds are migrating to warmer winter homes. This makes December an excellent time to learn and teach about birds. Let's go birding this month!



### Get Involved with the Christmas Bird Count

Friday, Dec 14 - Saturday, Jan 5

The Christmas Bird Count is a long-standing program of the National Audubon Society, with more than 100 years of citizen science involvement. It is an early-winter bird census, where thousands of volunteers across the U.S., Canada and other countries in the Western Hemisphere, go out over a 24-hour period to count birds.

[Find a Bird Count Location Near You](#)

### Become a Bird Sleuth

Interested in exploring a local park, refuge, or your own back yard? BirdSleuth Explorer's Guidebook will help guide your students through habitat observation, bird identification, and citizen science. Enjoy this fun and engaging guidebook!

[BirdSleuth Explorer's Guidebook](#)

[BirdSleuth Educator Resources](#)

### Birding 101

Use these **FREE** resources and learn more about birds and birding!

[Bird Guide with Bird Calls](#)

[Help Birds in the Winter](#)

## Don't Miss...

### The Winter Solstice

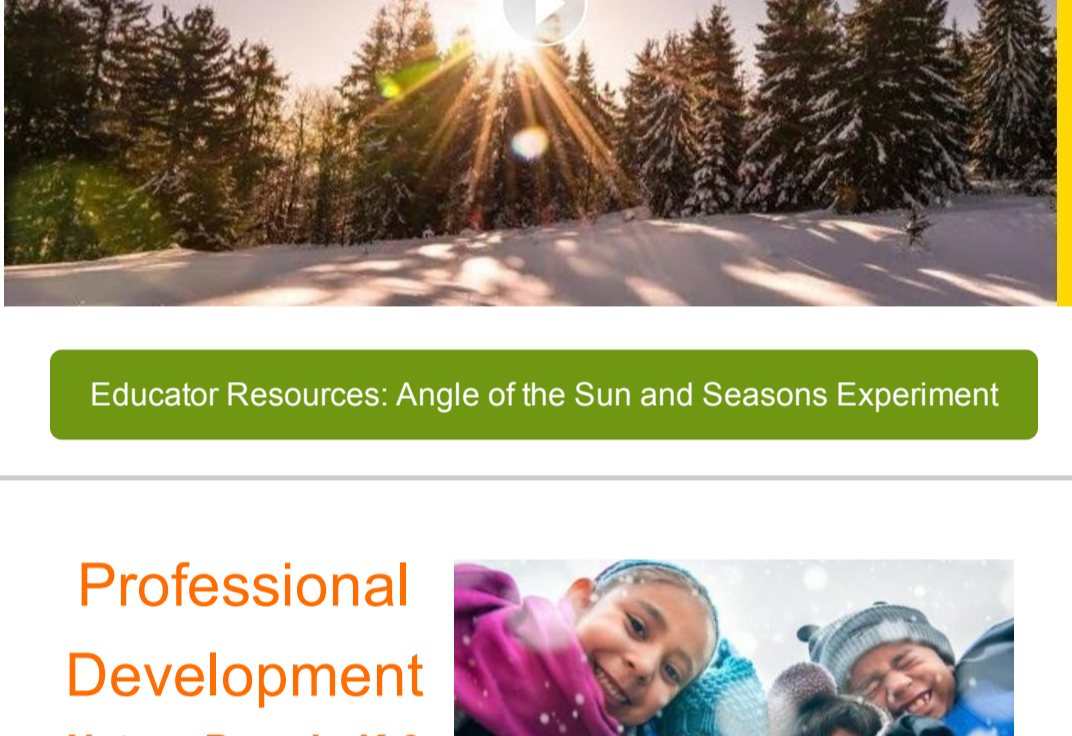
Friday, December 21

Learning about the winter solstice on the winter solstice is so much fun! This is the shortest day and longest night of the year for us in the Northern Hemisphere but there's always time for learning. Integrating math, science, literacy, and history is easy with a topic like the winter solstice!



[Learn More About the Winter Solstice Near You](#)

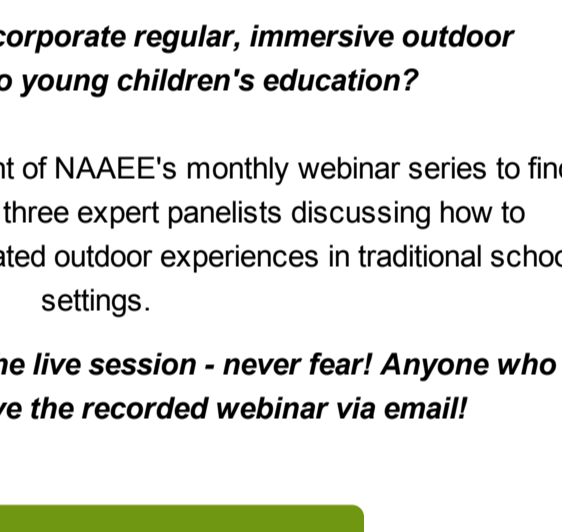
*What is the definition of a solstice, and when do they happen? Is the winter solstice always the first day of winter? Watch this video to find out what causes these bi-annual astronomical events, as well as how they bring about the shortest and longest days of the year.*



[Educator Resources: Angle of the Sun and Seasons Experiment](#)

## Professional Development

### Nature Days in K-3 Classrooms



Webinar: Wednesday, December 12th 5-6pm EST

#### Can public schools incorporate regular, immersive outdoor experiences into young children's education?

Tune in to the next installment of NAAEE's monthly webinar series to find out! This webinar feature three expert panelists discussing how to incorporate regular and repeated outdoor experiences in traditional school settings.

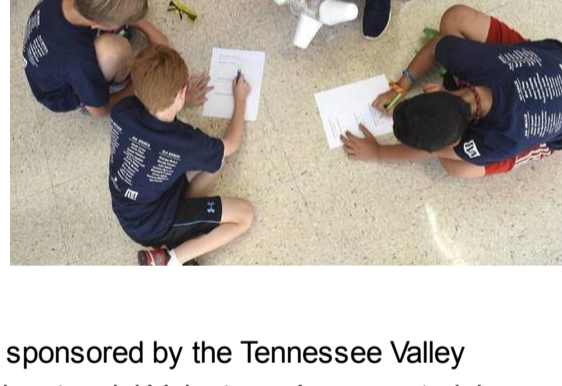
**If you are unable to join the live session - never fear! Anyone who registers will receive the recorded webinar via email!**

[Learn More and Register Today](#)

### Tennessee STEM Innovation Summit

May 14 & 15, 2019

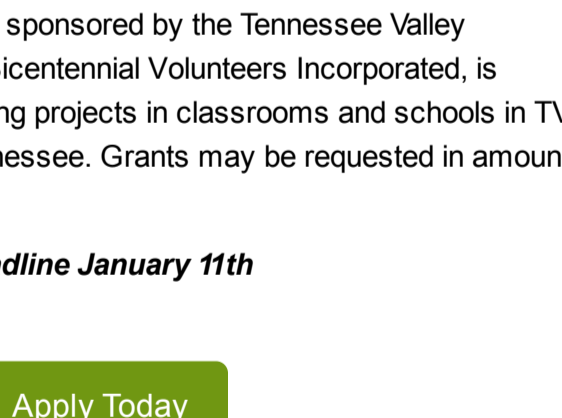
The Tennessee STEM Innovation Summit brings together leaders, innovators, and champions from across the state that are united by a passion to advance excellence in STEM education for all Tennesseans. The Innovation Summit features interactive learning sessions designed to stimulate participants' thinking around a broad range of strategies used to stimulate participants' in the classroom. The learning sessions are intended to provide attendees opportunities to interact with educational leaders and practitioners that are seeing success with STEM practices designed to raise student interest and achievement in STEM education.



[Learn More and Register Today](#)

## Show Me the Grant Opportunity

### STEM Grant for Tennessee Educators



The TVA Mini-Grant Program, sponsored by the Tennessee Valley Authority, in partnership with Bicentennial Volunteers Incorporated, is designed to fund STEM learning projects in classrooms and schools in TVA service areas throughout Tennessee. Grants may be requested in amounts up to \$5000.

**Deadline January 11th**

[Apply Today](#)

### Kids to Parks Day

### National School Contest



Kids to Parks Day is May 18th!

In honor of this day, NPT is once again hosting the Kids to Parks Day National School Contest to help educators engage their students with their local parks.

This national contest is open to all Title I schools in the United States (grades pre-K through 12). Classes can receive funding for a KTP event at a local park or public land/waterway in their community. Students must research and write the proposal themselves, although we encourage teachers to provide support and feedback! Contest entries should explain how park experiences will promote: Education, Health and Wellness, and Park Stewardship.

NPT will award park grants up to \$1,000 to winning entries. We encourage schools to implement their KTP event during the month of May 2019 but exceptions can be made based on school schedules.

**Deadline February 14th**

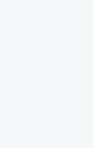
**Winners Announced March 7th**

**East Tennessee boasts three past grant winners!**

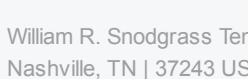
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