

Environmental Education

Tennessee

January 2019

Educational Highlight

Design Squad Clubs



In Design Squad Global (DSG) clubs, kids explore engineering through fun-packed, high energy, hands-on activities, such as designing and building an emergency shelter or a structure that can withstand an earthquake.

Through DSG, kids also get a special opportunity: the chance to work alongside a partner club from another country. Partner clubs share their experiences by exchanging design ideas, photos, and videos. Along the way, they develop their global competency by learning more about each other's cultures, communities, and lives.

DSG's "Inventing Green" guide gets kids thinking about engineering and environmental sustainability. DSG is challenging their clubs to think about how to solve environmental problems with engineering, as well as how to create new inventions using a sustainability mindset.

The New Activities Include:

- Building Wind Power Stations that power Gears
- Creating Sneakers using recycled or earth-friendly materials
- Designing Light Pipes that illuminate rooms without electricity
- Racing paper planes in Flight Path to learn about drag and fuel conservation

[Learn More](#)

Webinar: Design Squad Global Inventing Green, Engage Kids in Hands-on Engineering around Sustainability

**Thursday, January 10
11:00 AM Pacific (2:00 PM Eastern)**

This one hour webinar will detail how to bring Design Squad Global (DSG) Clubs to your community, including the support and resources available to make it successful. Participants will learn about the new DSG club guide "Inventing Green" that gets kids thinking about engineering and environmental sustainability.

[Register Today](#)

This Month Is...

National Radon Month



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has designated January as National Radon Action Month. The aim of National Radon Action Month is to increase the public's awareness of radon, promote radon testing and mitigation, and advance the use of radon-resistant, new construction practices.

Discover resources and materials to help educate others about radon, including event planning kits, flyers, PowerPoint presentations, and much more.

[Learn More](#)

[Get Your Free Radon Testing Kit Today!](#)

Don't Miss...

Metric System Day

January 19



National Council of Teachers of Mathematics says, "Students need to develop an understanding of **metric units** and their **relationships**, as well as fluency in applying the metric system to real-world situations."

Don't let the metric system intimidate your students or keep them away from deeper scientific exploration! Check out this real-world lesson for students learning the metric system.

[EE Resource: A Metric World \(6th-8th\)](#)

[Metric System Conversions](#)

Get Involved!

iNaturalist in Tennessee



If you aren't already using iNaturalist in your classroom or learning space, 2019 is the time to start! With iNaturalist you can...

Keep Track

Record your encounters with other organisms and maintain life lists, all in the cloud.

Create Useful Data

Help scientists and resource managers understand when and where organisms occur.

Crowdsource Identifications

Connect with experts who can identify the organisms you observe.

Become a Citizen Scientist

Find a project with a mission that interests you, or start your own.

Whether you are studying nature, geography, or data management, iNaturalist is a great tool for any classroom.

[Learn More About iNaturalist](#)

[Try A Bioblitz at Your Tennessee State Park Today](#)

Professional Development

Energy Education Camp for K-12 Educators



These camps promote the importance of energy literacy for K-12 educators and introduce them to topics such as energy generation, consumption, and measurement; renewable energy; and energy efficiency and conservation.

The sessions will link the broad topic of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) subjects and provide educators with the knowledge and resources necessary to teach energy concepts. Sessions will also explore how to involve students in service-learning projects that promote environmental stewardship.

K-12 educators are invited to apply for one of the following three camps:

June 18-20 at Cumberland Mountain State Park (Crossville)

June 25-27 at Roan Mountain State Park (Roan Mountain)

July 17-19 at Natchez Trace State Park (Wildersville)

Cost: FREE (includes instruction time, lodging, and meals, and energy-related classroom materials valued at \$200)

Applications Due April 5th

[Learn More and Apply](#)

Show Me the Grant

Field Trip Grants



Did you know that teachers can apply for a grant to take their class on a field trip to visit a Tennessee State Park? Whether students are learning about science, history or a variety other subjects, Tennessee State Parks provide a unique opportunity to learn outside of the classroom.

Grants are available for K-8 students to take a field trip to visit one of the 56 state parks across Tennessee (Fun fact: there is one within an hour of every Tennessee student!) Funding covers transportation, lunches/snacks and related project supplies). Grants are competitive and not all applications will be funded.

Applications Due by February 15th

[Learn More and Apply](#)

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