

Environmental Education

For Tomorrow's Stewards

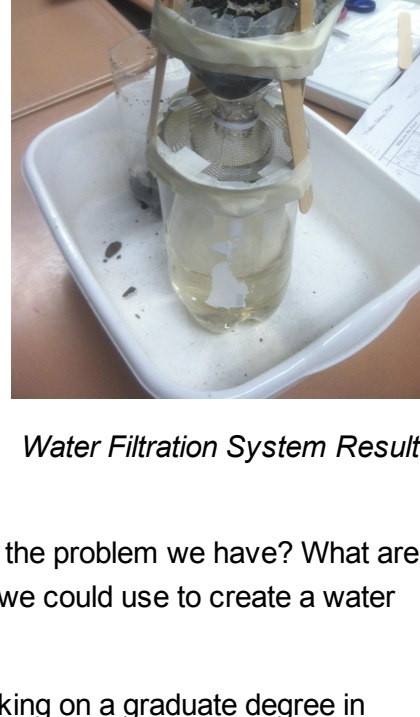
March 2018

Educational Highlight

Sam Houston Elementary Lebanon, TN

Adrema Higgins's fourth grade students were posed the following scenario:

You are lost in the woods and need to use some simple items in your back pack to make a water filter so you can have clean water. How could you build a water filter that will have the cleanest and most clear water?

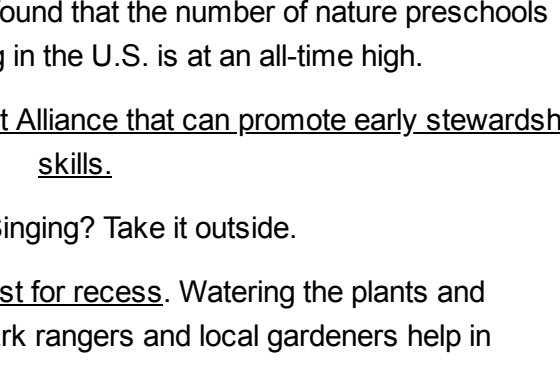


Water Filtration System Result

Students were asked questions like: What is the problem we have? What are the facts? What are some multiple solutions we could use to create a water filter? Which solution is best for our group?

Adrema Higgins is a Tennessee teacher working on a graduate degree in engineering. Her fourth graders' systematic approach to solving a vital environmental problem is a fantastic example of Tennessee teachers setting a high academic bar and Tennessee students reaching that bar.

7 Nature-Based Tips for Teaching Young Learners



A new national survey of nature-based early childhood educators found that the number of nature preschools and forest kindergartens operating in the U.S. is at an all-time high.

Here are 7 Tips from Natural Start Alliance that can promote early stewardship skills.

1. Do it outside. Storytime? Art? Singing? Take it outside.
2. Go outside everyday and not just for recess. Watering the plants and utilizing external resources like park rangers and local gardeners help in planning outdoor activities.
3. Inform parents. When parents know the benefits of nature-based learning, they are more likely to jump on board. Pass out the handout below to keep parents informed and excited.
4. Invite families. Volunteers not only bring in much needed extra hands but create nature-based role models for young children.
5. Train teachers. Find workshops and resources for supporting teachers.
6. Bring it in. Whether its leaves as stamps in the art center or matching games done with real shells, bringing nature into the classroom benefits students of all ages.
7. Be open to change. Not all change needs to happen at once. Be flexible and make change fun.

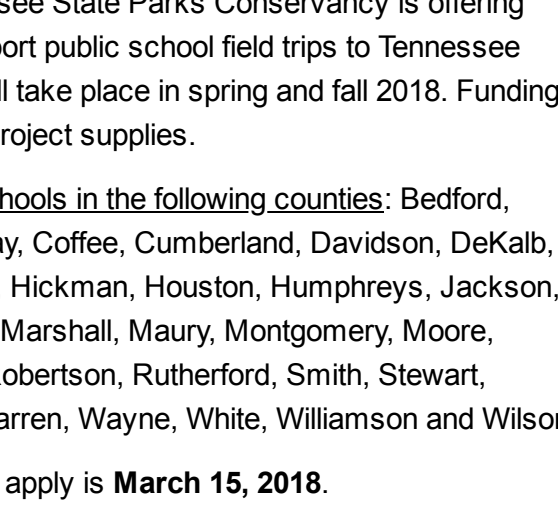
[Read the Full Article](#)

[Benefits of Connecting Children with Nature Handout](#)

New Grant:

Tennessee State Park Field Trips

Where can students go to learn about history and environmental science in a hands-on setting from leading state experts? The Tennessee State Parks Conservancy is offering more than \$5,000 in grants to support public school field trips to Tennessee State Parks. Awarded field trips will take place in spring and fall 2018. Funding covers transportation, lunch, and project supplies.



Grant eligibility is open to public schools in the following counties: Bedford, Campbell, Cannon, Cheatham, Clay, Coffee, Cumberland, Davidson, DeKalb, Dickson, Fentress, Franklin, Giles, Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Jackson, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Macon, Marshall, Maury, Montgomery, Moore, Overton, Perry, Pickett, Putnam, Robertson, Rutherford, Smith, Stewart, Sumner, Trousdale, Van Buren, Warren, Wayne, White, Williamson and Wilson.

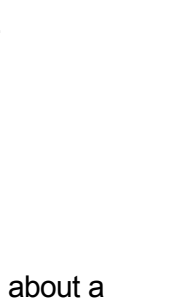
The deadline to apply is **March 15, 2018.**

[Learn More and Apply](#)

National Wildlife Week

March 12 - 16

Since 1938, The National Wildlife Federation has celebrated National Wildlife Week with programs dedicated to environmental awareness and education.



Today's students can play a vital role in saving wildlife for future generations.

Here are 10 ways to take action:

1. Get to know this year's Final Fur competitors.
2. Browse the WWF Wildlife Guide.
3. Research threatened and endangered species in Tennessee.
4. Conduct a school biodiversity audit.
5. Develop an action plan to build wildlife habitat at school.
6. Conduct species-specific citizen science.
7. Volunteer to remove invasive species from local parks.
8. Participate in or host a watershed cleanup event.
9. Partner with a local college or university to assist in research about a particular species.
10. Adopt an animal.

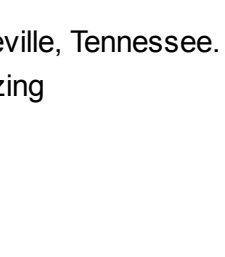
[Resources for NWF's 10 Action Steps](#)

[Educational Resources: Wildlife](#)

Spring Star Party

March 16 - 18

The Astronomy in the Parks Society, Cumberland Astronomical Society, Dyer Observatory and Fall Creek Falls State Park will be hosting the annual Tennessee Spring Star Party 2018 at Fall Creek Falls State Park in Pikeville, Tennessee.



This not-to-be-missed, free event allows for all night star gazing and educational programs on astronomy!

Lodging: 1-800-250-8610 for reservations.

Contacts: Lloyd Watkins astrowatkins@att.net

Allen Ball tncoper@gmail.com

[Fall Creek Falls State Park](#)

[Educational Resources: Astronomy](#)

Earth Hour

March 24 8:30 - 9:30 pm CST

This yearly event provides Tennessee educators the opportunity to participate in a global effort to highlight humans' effect on the environment.



Understanding our part in Earth's system is vital for all Tennesseans. Lets use this March to spread awareness of energy efficiency, conservation, sustainability, pollution, environmental health, and climate change.

Switch Off Your Lights For Earth Hour!

[Earth Hour 2018](#)

[Educational Resources: Energy](#)

Professional Development

Project Archaeology: Nutrition The Advent of Agriculture in Mesopotamia

March 24
Bells Bend Outdoor Center

9 AM to 3 PM
FREE!

Discover the past through authentic evidence from ancient archaeological sites in Mesopotamia! Trace the shift from hunting and gathering to the development of agriculture in the ancient world.

Examine two real archaeological sites on the upper Euphrates River and uncover the changes in diet as people shifted from foraging to farming. Students will think like archaeologists as they apply the tools of scientific inquiry (observation, inference, evidence, context, stratigraphy, and chronology) to the investigation of nutrition. Surprisingly, the advent of agriculture decreased food diversity with significant consequences for human health even today.

Explore contemporary nutrition through student collected data and design a healthy eating plan for the school based on information drawn from the study of the past!

Targeted Audience: teachers and youth leaders interested great activities and lessons to help teach social studies, history, science, and literacy for grades 4 - middle school

Register: Bells Bend Outdoor Center (615)862-4187 or via Facebook

Socket: Nashville's Sustainability Outlet



Socket is Metro Government of Nashville & Davidson

County's sustainability outreach program brought to you by the Department of General Services. Socket has just launched a website refresh that includes new content in eight areas of sustainability. Whether you are passionate about food and waste, energy and water, mobility and greenspace, or green building and wellness, the new Socket has blogs, events, and tips for you!

[Learn More about Socket](#)

Interested in More Environmental News from Tennessee?

Check out the bi-monthly newsletter from The Office of Policy and Sustainable Practices!

[Newsletter](#)

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