

# Environmental Education

in Tennessee

March 2019

## Don't Miss...

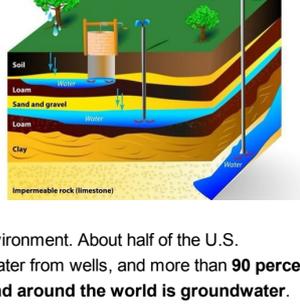
**National Ground Water Awareness Week**

**March 10-16**

Ground Water Awareness Week spotlights this valuable and renewable resource that is essential to the health and

wellbeing of humanity and the environment. About half of the U.S. population receives its drinking water from wells, and more than **90 percent of the fresh water in the U.S. and around the world is groundwater.**

## What is Ground Water?



[Learn More About Upcoming Groundwater Classes](#)

## Fix a Leak Week

**March 18-24**

Nationwide, more than 1 trillion gallons of water leak from U.S. homes each year. That's why WaterSense reminds Americans to check their plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems each year during Fix a Leak Week.



Take the WaterSense pledge to be for water and find what you can do - both at school and at home - to conserve this vital resource.

[EE Resources: Water and WaterSense](#)

[EE Resources: Fix the Leak Teachers' Guide \(3-5\)](#)

[EE Resources: Saving Water- ELA and Math Skills \(3-5\)](#)

## In the News...

**Greener Childhood Associated with Happier Adulthood**

Researchers from Aarhus University in Denmark found that growing up near



vegetation is associated with an up to **55 percent lower risk of mental health disorders in adulthood.**

Researchers compared the risk of developing 16 different mental health disorders in adulthood with how much green space surrounded each child's residence.

The researchers found that **growing up near green space was associated with a lower risk of developing psychiatric illness in adulthood by anywhere from 15 percent to 55 percent**, depending on the specific illness. For example, alcoholism was most strongly associated with lack of green space growing up, and risk of developing an intellectual disability was not associated with green space.

[Read the Full Article](#)

[Read the Full Study](#)

## Professional Development

**March 23**

**8:30 am - 3:30 pm**

Cedars of Lebanon State Park is hosting a workshop

for teachers with activities from Project Learning Tree, Project WET, Project WILD, and BEETLES at the Dixon Merritt Nature Center.



How can YOU get children out in nature?! Join Tennessee State Park rangers and environmental educators for a FREE professional development full of fun, hands-on activities that support the new science standards.

This workshop is held in an outdoor classroom space and will have a Ranger led hike and free lunch provided by the Friends of Cedars of Lebanon State Park. Teachers will leave with a certificate of completion for 6 hours of professional development credit.

[Register Today](#)

## Show Me the Grant

**Verizon Teacher Technology Grant**

Teachers of grades K-12 are invited to apply for a \$1,000 grant to use

toward the purchase of Virtual Reality (VR) equipment to use in the classroom. Help your students engage with educational content through the interactive learning experiences of VR headsets.



Studies suggest that education through VR can improve knowledge retention, concentration and understanding. Take your students on virtual field trips or build a new skill in a safe environment – the options for immersive learning with VR equipment are limitless.

**Apply by May 21, 2019.**

[Apply Today](#)

## Get Involved!

**Girls in Science**

**April 11 - May 16**

Tennessee State Parks is hosting Girls in Science! This

program is for 6th-8th grade girls in Rutherford, Williamson, Maury, Marshall, and Bedford Counties who show interest in science and the outdoors. The six week program will run from April 11th - May 16th and consist of weekly sessions meeting on Thursday evenings from 4:00pm - 6:00pm CST at Henry Horton State Park. Each session will be led by a Ranger and feature hands-on learning activities in both indoor and outdoor environments.



**Apply by March 20, 2019.**

[Learn More and Apply Today](#)

**River Talk: "Growing UP! Gardening In-- And On--The Urban Landscape"**

**March 28**

Speaker: Troy Marden,

Author and Host of *Volunteer Gardener*

"Growth in our, and any, city is almost inevitable. How, then, can we make the most of urban sites, private and public, for the greening of our urban centers? Problem solving for smaller lots, front yard gardens, rooftops, and inspiring vertical walls are but a few of the solutions. For 30 years as a landscape and garden designer, I helped solve these problems and more on a daily basis. Now, as I travel across our country and around the world leading a variety of garden and sightseeing tours, I continue to be inspired by what gardeners everywhere are doing in response to these issues. Join me as I share some of the most inspiring ideas I've come across in cities around the world!"



[Learn More and Register Today](#)

## Next Month News

April 2 National Healthy Schools Day

April 22 Earth Day

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