

Environmental Education

For Tomorrow's Stewards

May 2018

Educational Highlight

Bridgestone Environmental Education Classroom and Habitat

Located less than 15 miles west of McMinnville, TN sits a wonderful outdoor opportunity for Tennessee students and teachers. From August to June more than 2,000 Kindergarten through 8th graders

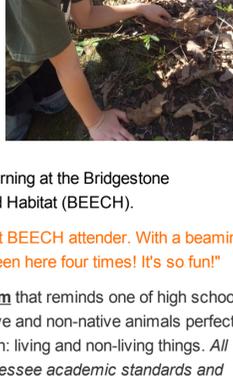
practice experiential and place-based learning at the Bridgestone Environmental Education Classroom and Habitat (BEECH).

The 1st grader pictured above is a repeat BEECH attendee. With a beaming smile, he proudly announced, "I've been here four times! It's so fun!"

His fun begins in an official **lab classroom** that reminds one of high school biology. Surrounding him are stuffed native and non-native animals perfectly setting the scene for the day's first lesson: living and non-living things. All lessons at BEECH are aligned with Tennessee academic standards and are taught by certified teachers or trained education students from Tennessee Tech University.

This young learner's afternoon is filled with the **outdoor habitat!** He quietly peers into a bird's nest to observe the small blue eggs. He excitedly hikes through the woods looking, listening, smelling, and touching. He widens his eyes as he approaches the lily-pad covered pond. Touching the lily-pads becomes the highlight of his trip!

He **experiences** Tennessee in ways a typical classroom cannot provide. Bridgestone Environmental Education Classroom and Habitat gave him this opportunity, and he cannot wait to return for the 5th time!



[Learn More](#)

The More You Know

Sustainability isn't just for adults!

We produce waste much faster than the earth can replenish it. Student intern, Emily Kuhn, created a video exploring what it means to be a conscious consumer and how we can become more aware of how our actions impact the planet.

Challenge for Tennesseans: How can you incorporate sustainability into your homes, workplaces, schools, and communities?



[Sustainable Classrooms Educator Training](#)

[Educational Resources: Sustainable Classrooms](#)

National Wetlands Month



May is a time when the Environmental Protection Agency and its partners in federal, state, tribal, local, non-profit and private sector organizations celebrate the vital importance of wetlands to the nation's ecological, economic and social health.

It is also a great opportunity to discover and teach others about the important role that wetlands play in our environment and the significant benefits they provide – improved water quality, increased water storage and supply, reduced flood and storm surge risk, and critical habitat for plants and wildlife. Here are some ways you can celebrate wetlands:

- 1. Learn about wetlands.** This is a great time to better understand what a wetland is, where wetlands can be found and the importance of wetlands. Activities may include reading and studying about wetland areas, drawing maps or illustrations of wetlands and identifying native species found in wetlands.
- 2. Explore a wetland near you.** Unless you live in the most extreme climate zones, there is a good chance a scenic wetland exists nearby for you to visit and explore during American Wetlands Month and throughout the year. To find a wetland near you, consult your local parks department, state natural resource agency, or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- 3. Take action to protect and restore wetlands.** Support and promote wetlands by informing community members about wetlands' vital roles, "adopting" a wetland, joining a local watershed group, or participating in a wetland monitoring, restoration or cleanup project.

[Find Your Tennessee State Park Wetland Activity](#)

[Educational Resources: Wetlands](#)

Get Involved!

Kids to Parks Day

The National Park Trust wants everyone to have an American park experience and is inviting every family in America to visit a national, state or local park and play outdoors on National Kids to Parks Day.



The vision is simply to remind adults to take a child in their lives to a park – where they can hike a trail, visit a national historic site, or even canoe on a river. American adults live busy and pressure-filled lives – why not give them a reason to take the time to connect a child with an American treasure – a park?

[Tennessee State Park Events](#)

[Free Park Adventure Booklet](#)

Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont

Discovery Camp

Ages: 9 - 12



Join us on an outdoor adventure in Great Smoky Mountains National Park! Discovery Camp is full of firsts for many kids. Each one is an exciting discovery. It's a place to explore nature and learn about the forests, rivers, and critters that make these mountains home.

Search for salamanders, collect insects, experience the power of a waterfall, hike through wilderness, cool off in the swimming hole and laugh with your new friends around the campfire. This is the place where you will discover just how exciting nature can be at a summer camp like no other.

June 11-16 June 25-30 July 16-21

[Register Now](#)

Professional Development

Citizen Science in Your Classroom

July 26 - 27



This opportunity for formal and experiential educators will leave you with:

- **Content knowledge** for citizen science
- Proper data collection techniques and reporting procedures
- **Tools** to start and maintain your own citizen science program at your school or business
- K-12 standards aligned cross-curricular **lessons**
- Global standards science **resources**
- Enrollment in Ivy Academy's Citizen Science

Where: The North Chickamauga Cree, Gorge at Ivy Academy, 8520 Dayton Pike, Soddy Daisy, TN, 37379

When: Thursday and Friday, July 26-27 2018 from 9-2 PM

Cost: \$35, FREE for Hamilton County teachers

[Learn More and Register](#)

TEEA Conference

September 21-23, 2018

Dubose Conference Center
Monteagle, TN



Save the date for the 40th annual state-wide Tennessee Environmental Education Association's Conference!

Members include K-12 classroom teachers and non-formal educators like park and nature center staff. Keynote speaker is David Haskell, award-winning author of *The Forest Unseen* and *The Songs of Trees*.

Conference registration available online in June.

Present at the conference! You have something to share! Session tracks include STEM+EE in Schools, Citizen Science in the Schoolyard, Urban EE, Health through EE, Healthy Planet, EE in English Language Arts, Exploring the Arts through EE, and Back to Nature.

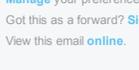
[Register](#)

[Session Proposal Form](#)

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