



Department of  
**Environment &  
Conservation**



# Environmental Education

*For Tomorrow's Stewards*

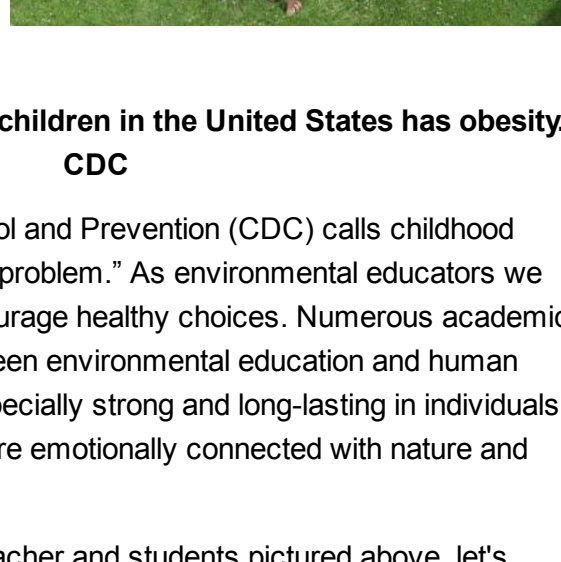
*September 2018*

## This Month Is...

National Childhood

Obesity Awareness

Month



**Approximately 1 in 6 (17%) children in the United States has obesity. - CDC**

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) calls childhood obesity "a major public health problem." As environmental educators we can practice, teach, and encourage healthy choices. Numerous academic studies illustrate the link between environmental education and human health. This association is especially strong and long-lasting in individuals who learn, engage with, and are emotionally connected with nature and their outdoor environment.

Let's be proactive! Like the teacher and students pictured above, let's engage our learners with THEIR environment. Click below for a lesson on "Connecting Ecosystems and Human Health," and share your successful environmental education stories with me ([sarah.green@tn.gov](mailto:sarah.green@tn.gov)). Tennessee is making an EE impact, so let's share those results with our EE community.

[EE Resources: Lesson Plan \(Grades 4-5, 6-12\)](#)

## Don't Miss...

Take a Child Outside Week

September 24 - 30

Take a Child Outside Week is an annual program that encourages people all over the world, particularly children, to participate in outdoor activities.

Going outside:

Connects children to the natural world

Helps kids focus in school

Reduces chances of obesity

This week is designed to help break down obstacles that keep children from discovering the natural world. Check out ways to create discovery and mold curious and courageous learners!

Check out the Tennessee State Park Storybook Trails! On these child-focus trails, a nature-themed story unfolds as you walk. Large, colorful panels line the trail for a fun, healthy, and educational outdoor experience.

Tennessee State Parks with Storybook Trails:

Long Hunter State Park

Edgar Evins State Park

Montgomery Bell State Park

Pickett State Park

Henry Horton State Park

Cumberland Mountain State Park

Harpeth River State Park

South Cumberland State Park

**Join Cumberland Mountain State Park for its Storybook Trail opening on September 14th or**

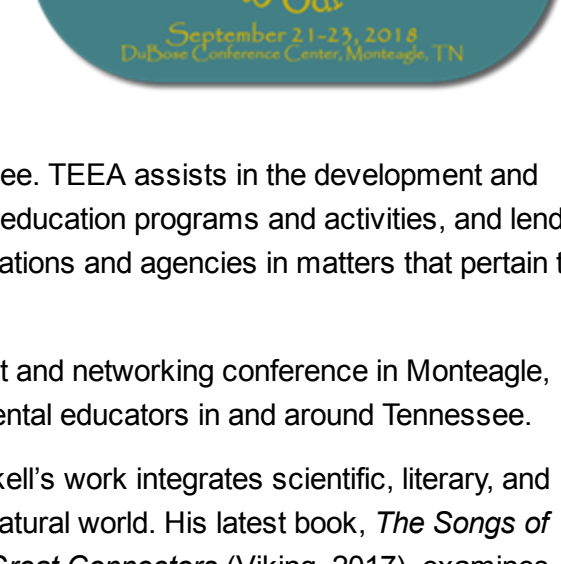
**Henry Horton State Park for its Storybook Trail opening on October 13th!**

[EE Resources: Take a Child Outside Activities](#)

[EE Resources: BEETLES Project Activities](#)

## In the News...

**Bat Signal: Fireflies' glow tells bats they taste awful!**



Remember the evenings you spent as a child squinting into the back yard just waiting? You knew it was summer. You knew it was getting dark. You knew they would be there.

So many of us spent our summer evenings chasing fireflies, or lightning bugs as we call them here in Tennessee. As we become older we learn that the flash of light is part of the reproductive cycle of the firefly, but a new study suggests that the flash is also helpful in survival.

Through a painstaking experiment, Boise State biology professor Jesse Barber found that bats dislike the taste of fireflies. "They shake their heads, salivate and spit and generally despise their caretakers for giving such a rude meal," she stated.

So this month, whether we are educating those around us about adaptations or biology or even looking for that hook to captivate our learners and instill curiosity, let's not forget about our lightning bugs and bats!

[EE Resources: Learn to Speak the Language of a Firefly! \(Grades K-5\)](#)

[EE Resources: Calculate the Value of Bats \(Grades 5-8\)](#)

[Read the Entire AP News Article](#)

## Professional Development

40th Annual TEEA

Conference

September 21 - 23

The Tennessee Environmental Education Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting environmental education throughout Tennessee. TEEA assists in the development and coordination of environmental education programs and activities, and lends support to institutions, organizations and agencies in matters that pertain to environmental education.

This professional development and networking conference in Monteagle, Tennessee is for all environmental educators in and around Tennessee.

**Keynote Speaker:** David Haskell's work integrates scientific, literary, and contemplative studies of the natural world. His latest book, *The Songs of Trees: Stories from Nature's Great Connectors* (Viking, 2017), examines the many ways that trees and humans are connected

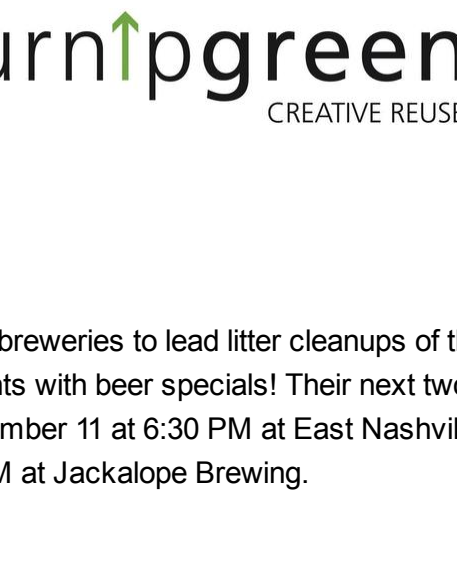
**Register today, and join the fun!**

[Learn More and Register](#)

Project Learning Tree

Project WET

September 25, October 11-12



Join members of Tennessee State Parks for 3 FREE days of hands-on, standards-based activities and training! Classes are open to all formal and non-formal educators and will focus on K-8 learners. Register today for your spot and receive FREE resources! PD credit available.

September 25 | Montgomery Bell State Park | 8:30 - 2:30 | PLT

October 11 | Standing Stone State Park | 8:30 - 2:30 | PLT

October 12 | Standing Stone State Park | 8:30 - 2:30 | Project WET

**For project participants, overnight stays at Standing Stone Park will include additional FREE, park-based evening programs on October 11th! Book your cabin today!**

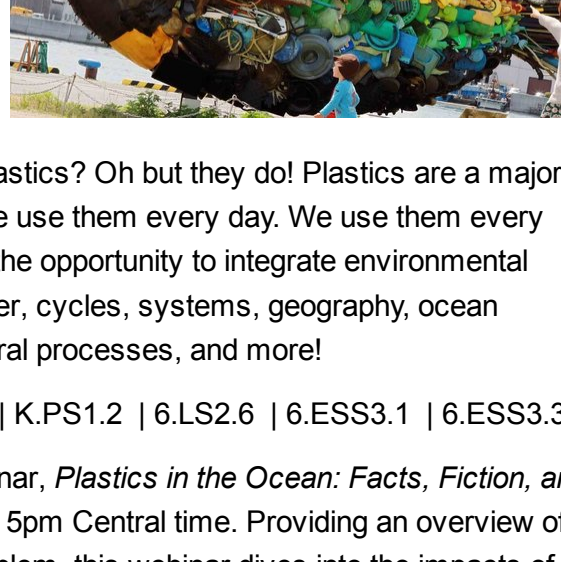
[Register September 25th](#)

[Register October 11th](#)

[Register October 12th](#)

## Sustainability Corner

EE and Plastics



What? Your new science standards do not talk about plastics? Oh but they do! Plastics are a major part of Tennesseans' lives. We use them every day. We use them every hour! As educators, we have the opportunity to integrate environmental education into topics like matter, cycles, systems, geography, ocean circulations, food chains, natural processes, and more!

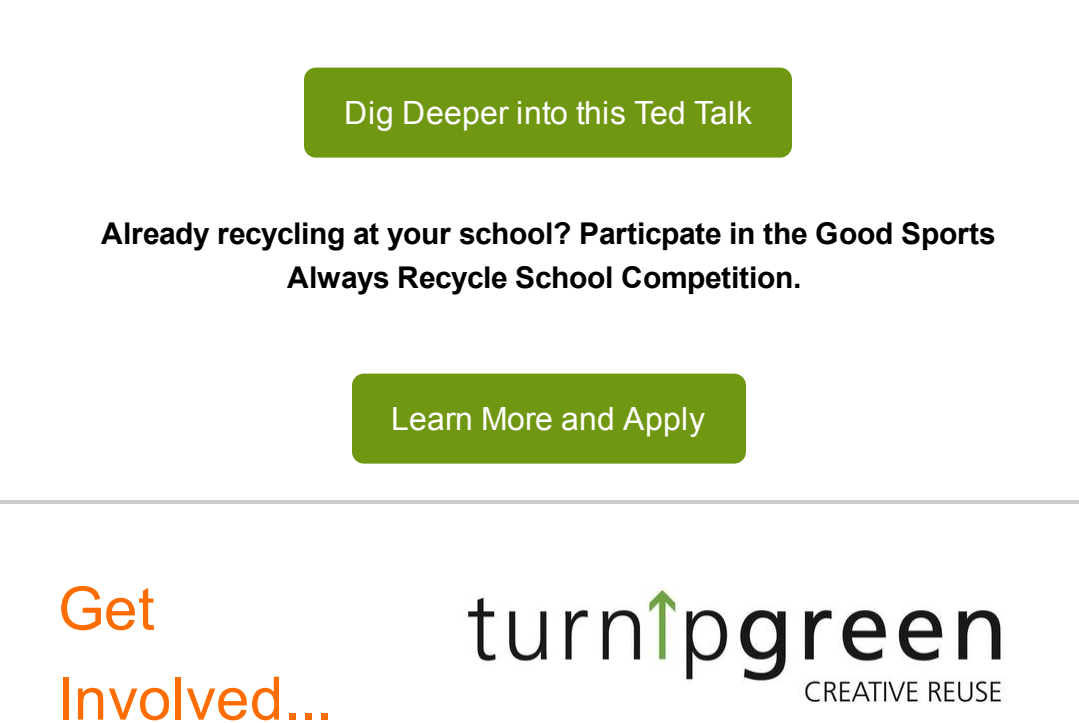
Science Standards: K.PS1.1 | K.PS1.2 | 6.LS2.6 | 6.ESS3.1 | 6.ESS3.3

Check out the upcoming webinar, *Plastics in the Ocean: Facts, Fiction, and Unknowns* September 25th at 5pm Central time. Providing an overview of the ocean plastic pollution problem, this webinar dives into the impacts of microplastics on ocean and marine food webs.

[Register for the Webinar](#)

## Looking for a way to introduce the life cycle of plastic to your learners?

Check out this fun video! It covers the journey of three plastic water bottles with educational topics like molecules, cause and effect, geography, and food chains, and more.



**STEAM Challenge: Design your own solution to a plastic-related, environmental problem.**

**Share your designs with us! ([sarah.green@tn.gov](mailto:sarah.green@tn.gov))**

[Dig Deeper into this Ted Talk](#)

**Already recycling at your school? Participate in the Good Sports Always Recycle School Competition.**

[Learn More and Apply](#)

## Get Involved...

Pick Up a Pint

September 11

Turnip Green is partnering with local breweries to lead litter cleanups of the brewery's area and reward participants with beer specials! Their next two "Pick Up for a Pint" events are September 11 at 6:30 PM at East Nashville Beer Works and October 14 at 12 PM at Jackalope Brewing.

[Learn More About Pick Up a Pint](#)

PARK(ing) Day

September 21

Park(ing) Day is an annual global event where citizens, artists, and activists collaborate to temporarily transform metered parking spaces into public places.

Socket and the Metro

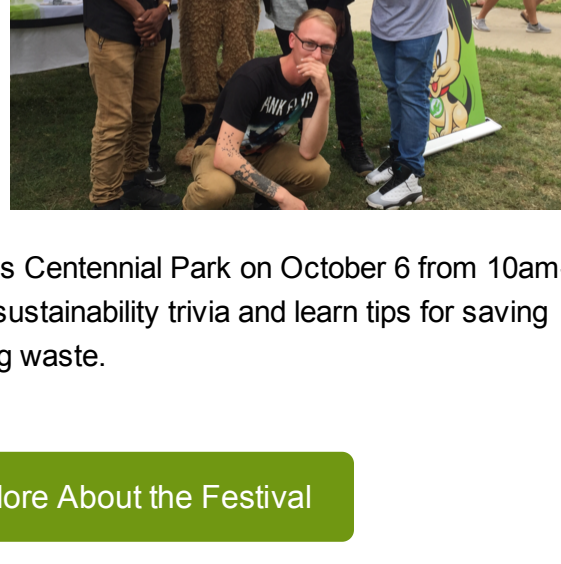
Nashville Department of General Services is partnering with the Metro Planning Department and the Tennessee Department of Health to host two spots on Broadway and 4th Ave. downtown. Stop by between 9am-4pm for games, prizes, and a chance to meet Socket the Dog!

[Learn More About PARK\(ing\) Day](#)

Whitsitt Elementary

September 29

Support a new Nashville STEAM school by joining students, parents, teachers, and community partners in this school year's first community garden day! The event is from 10am - 1pm and includes a great FREE-out lunch.



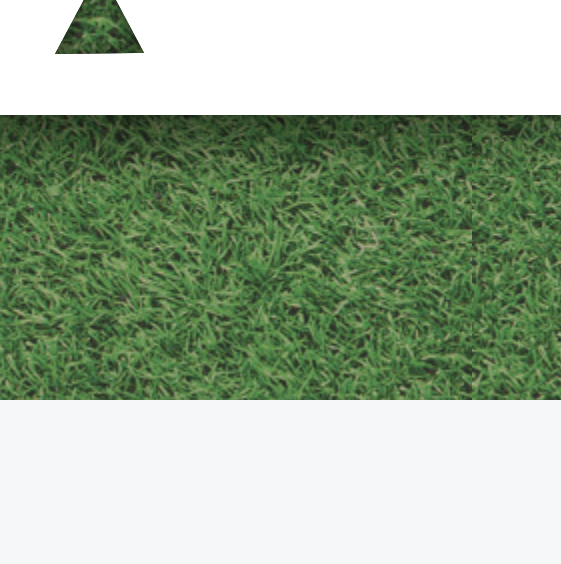
[Learn More About Whitsitt Elementary](#)

Celebrate Nashville

Cultural Festival

October 6

Celebrate Nashville Cultural Festival features food, dance, music, and activities from around the world. Visit Socket's booth at this vibrant community event in Nashville's Centennial Park on October 6 from 10am-6pm. Test your knowledge of sustainability trivia and learn tips for saving energy and water and reducing waste.



[Learn More About the Festival](#)

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