

Aligns with Michigan Curriculum Framework for Science & Social Studies!!



# “Kids CAN Make a Difference” K-12 Earth Day 2005 Program

Help the Earth and Your Students' MEAP Scores!!



Dear K-12 Teacher or Youth Group Leader:

Earth Day is April 22. Schools, scouting groups, and community youth groups located in Houghton, Baraga, Keweenaw, Gogebic, and Ontonagon counties are invited to participate in the **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Day 2005 “Kids CAN Make A Difference” Program**. The goal of the program is for students to recognize that **everyone can make a difference** by becoming informed and taking action in our local schools and communities to make the world a better place for all. The table below shows how the program correlates to **K-12 Michigan Curriculum Framework Correlations**

#### Social Studies

Strand II.2: Geographic Perspective - Human/Environment Interaction  
Strand II.5: Geographic Perspective - Global Issues and Events  
Strand IV.1: Economic Perspective - Individual and Household Choices  
Strand VII.1: Citizen Involvement - Responsible Personal Conduct

#### Science

Strand III.5: Ecosystems - material cycling; humans & environment  
Strand V.1: Geosphere - Earth's surface and resources  
Strand V.2: Hydrosphere - interaction of humans and water  
Strand V.3: Atmosphere and Weather - humans & atmosphere

### Project Requirements & Submission Deadline

1. Students and youth groups select an environmental topic **to study** or develop an action project **to do** during the school year that gets students involved with the environment at their school or in their community.
2. Complete the attached registration form describing the project. Eligible projects may already be in progress, or *should begin and have substantial progress made before the registration deadline of Friday, April 15*. Long-term projects are encouraged.
3. A staff member from the Western U.P. Center will visit each class or community group between April 18-29 to interview the group about their project. Each group should plan a short 5-10 minute presentation about their project that includes some evidence of their project's success—such as photos, student work, a bulletin board display, report, etc. Be creative!

### Student Recognition

**All groups** will receive a small treat, an Earth Day Recognition Certificate, and have their names entered into a special Earth Day prize drawing. A total of FOUR names will be drawn: one in the grade K-5 age group and one in the grade 6-12 age group for both Houghton-Baraga-Keweenaw counties and Gogebic-Ontonagon counties. The lucky groups whose names are drawn will *each* receive up to \$300 for an educational field trip.

### Program Sponsors

This program is sponsored by the Western U. P. Center for Science, Mathematics and Environmental Education and the Center for Science and Environmental Outreach at Michigan Technological University with funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Wege Foundation, and Michigan Department of Education.

### For More Information or to Obtain a Registration Form

Registration forms are available by contacting Joan Chadde/Anne Collins at (906) 487-3341 or email: [jchadde@mtu.edu](mailto:jchadde@mtu.edu) Or you may download a registration form and read about last year's projects on the Center's website: <http://wupcenter.mtu.edu/education/earthweek/index.html>

# EARTH DAY PROJECT IDEAS & RESOURCES



The **Western Upper Peninsula Center for Science, Math & Environmental Education** has many excellent resources for planning an Earth Day Project!

- ◆ For a list of activity guides, children's literature and equipment available to teachers for loan through our **Resource Clearinghouse**, visit our website: <http://wupcenter.mtu.edu/education/manuals.html> & [http://wupcenter.mtu.edu/teachers\\_resources.html](http://wupcenter.mtu.edu/teachers_resources.html)
- ◆ For information about projects that were done by schools during the past three years of the program, visit our website: <http://wupcenter.mtu.edu/education/earthweek/index.html>

**Here are project ideas and website links to get your class or youth group thinking about what YOU can do:**

- ◆ Plant a school or community garden that provides wildlife habitat, enhances human habitat, or provides food. <http://www.nwf.org/schoolyardhabitats/creatinghabitatsites.cfm> & <http://www.kidsgardening.com/>
- ◆ Build bird nesting boxes or bat boxes. <http://www.npwr.usgs.gov/resource/tools/birdhouse/birdhouse.htm>
- ◆ Organize a tree-planting project. <http://www.earthday.net/goals/trees/treeplanting.stm>
- ◆ Calculate your Ecological Footprints: <http://www.earthday.net/footprint/index.asp#> & <http://www.lead.org/leadnet/footprint/intro.htm>
- ◆ Start a "Waste Free Lunch Program": <http://www.wastefreelunches.org/>
- ◆ Decorate paper bags for a local grocery store with earth-friendly messages: <http://www.earthdaybags.org/>
- ◆ Hold a recycling drive or set up an in-school recycling program: <http://www.epa.gov/recyclecity/> & <http://www.resourcefulschools.org>
- ◆ Make a worm bin for classroom or school cafeteria composting (Center has plans to follow).
- ◆ Conduct a frog and toad calling or deformity survey. <http://wupcenter.mtu.edu/education/frog.htm>
- ◆ Conduct a forest, schoolyard, or stream clean-up.
- ◆ Conduct a storm drain stenciling project. <http://www.earthwater-stencils.com/> (Center has stencils that may be borrowed)
- ◆ Broadcast an Earth Day message over the school PA system, or in cooperation with your local TV or radio station.
- ◆ Study an environmental topic of interest to your class or group!!

## Earth Day Websites:

- ◆ Earth Day Network: <http://www.earthday.net/default.asp>
- ◆ Official Site of International Earth Day: <http://www.earthsite.org/>
- ◆ Earth Day at Kids Domain: <http://www.kidsdomain.com/holiday/earthday/index.html>
- ◆ Wilderness Society Earth Day Page: <http://earthday.wilderness.org/>
- ◆ EnviroLink Earth Day Pages: <http://earthday.envirolink.org/>
- ◆ U.S. Government: <http://www.earthday.gov/>
- ◆ U.S. Department of Energy: [www.eere.energy.gov/earthday](http://www.eere.energy.gov/earthday)
- ◆ Environmental Protection Agency : [www.epa.gov/earthday](http://www.epa.gov/earthday)
- ◆ National Institute of Health: [www.nih.gov/od/ors/earthday](http://www.nih.gov/od/ors/earthday)
- ◆ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: <http://www.noaa.gov/earthday/>
- ◆ Department of Transportation: [www.dot.gov/affairs/earth.htm](http://www.dot.gov/affairs/earth.htm)
- ◆ Sierra Club : <http://www.sierraclub.org/earthday2003/epec/mi.asp>

## Resources for Environmental Education in Michigan:

- ◆ MTU School of Forest Resources & Environmental Sciences "Kids Corner" <http://forestry.mtu.edu/kidscorner>
- ◆ Michigan Environmental Education Resources : [http://www.canr.msu.edu/michee/ed\\_res/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/michee/ed_res/)
- ◆ Michigan Department of Environmental Quality: <http://www.michigan.gov/mikids/0,1607,7-163--12548--,00.html>
- ◆ Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education: <http://www.michiganenvironmentaled.org/>
- ◆ North American Association of Environmental Education: <http://www.eelink.net/classroomresources-directories.html>

