

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



“Kids CAN Make a Difference” K-12 Earth Day Program 2008

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 **8th Annual Earth Day “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 links to **K-12 Michigan Curriculum Frameworks**:

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 design an action project to do that gets students involved with the environment at their school or in their community.
2. Complete the attached registration form describing the project and submit before the registration deadline of Friday, April 18.
3. **Eligible projects should be new this school year and have made substantial progress before the deadline.** A staff member from the Western U.P. Center will visit each class or community group between April 23 and May 23 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, etc. Be creative!

Student Recognition

All groups will receive an Earth Day Recognition Certificate. Groups with projects that impact large numbers or are unique and creative will be selected to win a special Earth Day prize. A total of **FOUR groups will be selected**, 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, to receive **\$300 for an environmental educational field trip to a special place.**

Program Sponsors

This program is sponsored by the Western U. P. Center for Science, Mathematics and Environmental Education, with funding from the Great Lakes Fishery Trust and the Wege Foundation.

To Register

Registration forms are available by contacting Joan Chadde or Kathy Carter at (906) 487-3341 or email: jchadde@mtu.edu or krcarter@mtu.edu. Registration forms may also be downloaded from the Center's website: <http://wupcenter.mtu.edu/education/earthweek/index.htm>. See last year's projects listed on the Center's website.

Go Kids! Go Earth!!

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
- ◆ 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 web 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.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/tools/birdhouse/birdhouse.htm>
- ◆ Organize an *Its Cool to Carpool* or *Walk to School Day* to address global warming.
- ◆ Organize a tree-planting project. <http://www.earthday.net/goals/trees/treeplanting.stm>
- ◆ Calculate your Ecological Footprint: <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/>
- ◆ Hold a recycling drive or set up an in-school recycling program: <http://www.epa.gov/recyclecity/> & <http://www.resourcefulschools.org>
- ◆ Make a worm compost bin for your school cafeteria.
- ◆ Conduct a frog/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 you can borrow.)
- ◆ Display gallon jugs of water equal to what is used for various household activities and/or to produce various goods.
- ◆ Broadcast an Earth Day message over the school PA system or your local TV or radio station.
- ◆ Decorate paper bags for a local grocery store with earth-friendly messages: <http://www.earthdaybags.org/>

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
- ◆ Environmental Protection Agency : www.epa.gov/earthday
- ◆ National Institute of Health: 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
- ◆ Sierra Club : <http://www.sierraclub.org/earthday2003/epec/mi.asp>

Resources for Environmental Education in Michigan

- ◆ Michigan Environmental Education: <http://www.michiganenvironmentaled.org/>
- ◆ Michigan Department of Environmental Quality: http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3307_3580---,00.html
- ◆ North American Association of Environmental Education: <http://www.eelink.net/classroomresources-directories.html>
- ◆ EPA Environmental Education Kids Club: <http://epa.gov/kids/>



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REGISTRATION FORM (Please submit by Friday, April 18th)

1. Name of Class/Group/Organization _____

School (if applicable) _____ Grade _____

2. Contact Person (Teacher/Group Leader) _____

3. Street, City, Zip _____

4. Phone number _____ E-mail _____

5. How many students are directly participating in the project? _____

6. How many people from the community were/will be impacted by the project? _____

7. Project title: _____

8. Explain how your project involves either a large number of students in the planning and implementation phase, or how it will impact large numbers of people, or how it is unique:

9. List **four possible dates** & times between Wednesday, April 23 and Friday, May 23 when we may schedule a site visit to hear students/youth tell us about their project (allow 30 minutes). If more than one group at your school is participating in this program, please try to coordinate with them.

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

10. Mail, fax or email this FORM with your PROJECT DESCRIPTION by Friday, April 18, 2008 to:

“Kids CAN Make A Difference” Earth Day 2008

**Western U. P. Center for Science, Mathematics & Environmental Education
105 Dillman Hall - Michigan Technological University
1400 Townsend Dr., Houghton, MI. 49931-1295**

Phone: (906) 487-3341 Fax: (906) 487-1620 Email: jchadde@mtu.edu

Questions?? Contact Joan Chadde / Kathy Carter, “Kids Can Make A Difference” Earth Day Program Coordinators
Or visit our website at: <http://wupcenter.mtu.edu/>

Sponsored by the Western Upper Peninsula Center for Science, Mathematics & Environmental Education
with funding from the Great Lakes Fishery Trust and the Wege Foundation

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION FORM

Use this page or answer the questions on a separate sheet of paper. An interactive version of this form will be on the Center’s website. Typewritten responses are easier to read! If your students are able, have them complete the project description.

a) Project title: _____

b) Describe your project.

c) How many students and what grades are participating in the project?

d) How many people do you estimate will be impacted/helped by your project?

e) How will your project help your school, the community, and the Earth?

f) When and where is the project taking place?

g) What will/did your students learn from participating in the project?