



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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GOVERNOR PROCLAIMS APRIL 13-19 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WEEK

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley has proclaimed April 13-19 as Environmental Education Week in North Carolina. North Carolina joins 16 other states and the National Environmental Education Foundation in sponsoring a week dedicated to increasing environmental education in the United States.

During the week before Earth Day (April 22), educators, students and adults in North Carolina will participate in activities and events that enhance Earth Day's educational impact. National Environmental Education Week provides educators with a full week of environmental education preparation, activities in school classrooms as well as universities and informal educational facilities such as parks and zoos.

Since 2004, NEEF, a private, non-profit organization authorized by Congress and dedicated to the strategic advancement of environmental literacy and education, has coordinated National Environmental Education Week. Thousands of educators and millions of students participate in Environmental Education Week, thanks to numerous national, state and local organizations that put the nation's largest organized environmental education week together.

The N.C. Office of Environmental Education is promoting the programs and events statewide in April using its award-winning Web site, www.eenorthcarolina.org. On the Web site, residents can use an online calendar to see the state's environmental education activities. Visitors can search for any Environmental Education Center in the state. Teachers can search for environmental education resources to use in the classroom tailored to different ages and subjects.

April is an appropriate time to celebrate environmental education because Earth Day is April 22 and the Children and Nature Network recently designated April as Children and Nature Awareness Month. Children and Nature Awareness Month promotes the importance for children to experience regular exploration in natural outdoor settings.

“Research and data show that environmental education improves K-12 academic achievement across all disciplines, promotes healthy lifestyles and increases environmental literacy among our state's citizens,” said Easley in his proclamation.

Lisa Tolley, director for the N.C. Office of Environmental Education, hopes their Web site can help.

“Spending time outdoors is important for developing an appreciation for the environment and a stewardship ethic,” Tolley said. “Our lifestyles sometimes make it hard to get outdoors. We hope our office can help people access a wide variety of outdoor experiences – from activities they can do in their own backyard to educational programs and facilities they can visit across the state.”

For a list of environmental education activities in April, visit the N.C. Office of Environmental Education at www.eenorthcarolina.org. For information about how to become a partner or to find out about activities or partners in other states, visit the National Environmental Education Week's Web site at www.EEWeek.org. Want to know more about the National Environmental Education Foundation? Go to www.neefusa.org. Information about the Children and Nature Network can be found at <http://www.cnaturenet.org>.

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