

2017 Environmental & Outdoor Education Awards, Contests, Grants & Career Preparation Opportunities

The following is a list of awards and recognition programs, career preparation and work experience activities, contests, grants, and other opportunities related to environmental and outdoor education.

Awards, Contests, & Grants

Envirothon

What: Any clubs with high-school-aged 4-H'ers interested in science and technology or environmental and outdoor education should consider the Michigan Envirothon program. Envirothon is an opportunity for teens to learn more about earth science and natural resources through team studies and interaction with professionals and specialists in each field of study as they train for regional and state competitions. This contest offers high school students the chance to become experts in seven different subject areas as they train for annual regional and state competitions.

Open to: Groups of three to six high school students with one alternate and one adult leader or teacher.

Registration deadline/Cost:

State Competition: May 2017 (Dates to be Announced Soon!)

Find out more at: www.michiganenvirothon.org

Resources: http://macd.org/assets/downloads/Envirothon/Michigan_Envirothon_Brochure.pdf

4-H Honey Bee Essay Contest

What: This national essay contest offers cash prizes of \$750, \$500 and \$250 to the top three winners. Each state winner will also receive an appropriate book. **2017 Essay Topic:** *"How can MP3 (Managed Pollinator Protection Plan) more effectively protect honey bees from pesticide exposure?"*

Open to: 4-H members only. (Those who have placed first, second or third at the national level are not eligible.)

Essay deadline: Michigan essays must be submitted electronically by February 10, 2017, to Nick Baumgart at baumga75@anr.msu.edu

Find out more at: <http://honeybeepreservation.org/category/essay-contest/>

The essay topic and other requirements are listed there.

Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes

What: This award for young heroes honors outstanding young leaders who have made a significant positive difference to people and our planet. Nominees must have been in a leadership role of a service activity and demonstrated positive spirit and high moral purpose in accomplishing their goals. Winners of the Barron Prize each receive \$5,000 to be applied to their higher education or to their service project.

Open to: Young people aged 8 to 18 can be nominated by responsible adults who have solid knowledge of a young person's heroic activities, and who are not related to the nominee.

Application deadline: April 15, 2017

Find out more at: <http://www.barronprize.org/>

Brower Youth Award

What: The Brower Youth Awards recognize youth living in North America who have shown outstanding leadership on a project or campaign with positive environmental and social impact. Each of six Brower Youth Award recipients will receive a \$3000 cash prize and an all-expense-paid trip to the San Francisco Bay Area to attend the awards ceremony and a week of speaking engagements, trainings and environmental conferences leading up to the ceremony.

Open to: Youth aged 13 to 22

Application deadline: May of each year, please check website for current deadline

Find out more at: <http://www.broweryouthawards.org/>

Rachel Carson Sense of Wonder Contest

What: The EPA, Generations United, The Dance Exchange and the Rachel Carson Council Inc. sponsor this award. Contestants are to express a photo, essay, poetry or dance “that best expresses the Sense of Wonder that you feel for the sea, the night sky, forests, birds, wildlife, and all that is beautiful to your eyes.” Entries must be intergenerational projects involving persons from different ages and generations.

Open to: Intergenerational groups of youth and adults

Application deadline: June of each year, please check website for current deadline

Find out more at: <https://archive.epa.gov/research/archive-aging/web/html/index-9.html>

4-H County Innovative Grants, including 4-H On-Target Shooting Sports Grants

What: The purpose of the Michigan 4-H Legacy grants is to encourage creativity and support the implementation of great ideas that promote positive youth development in communities. A total of two \$1,000 grants are available for Michigan 4-H volunteers, 4-H youth members and 4-H staff members to help them develop a new program or initiative or to strengthen, enhance or expand a current program that’s making a difference.

Open to: 4-H groups and individuals in any programming area.

Application deadline: June 1st of each year

Find out more at: <http://mi4hfdtn.org/grants/>

Prudential Spirit of Community Awards

What: This program honors young volunteers. Local honorees receive a certificate of recognition from their school or organization. State honorees receive a \$1000 award, an engraved silver medallion and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for national recognition events. National honorees receive an additional \$5000 award, an engraved gold medallion and a trophy for their school or organization.

Open to: Students in grades 5 to 12 who have volunteered during the past 12 months

Application deadline: November of each year

Find out more at: <http://www.prudential.com/spirit>

Youth Incentive Award Program (Entomology – Beetles)

What: The Coleopterists Society provides two cash awards of \$200 (Junior Award) and \$400 (Senior Award) and a matching equipment credit from the [BioQuip Products](#) catalog, plus a one-year subscription to the society journal, *The Coleopterists Bulletin*, to recognize young people studying beetles – the most diverse organisms on earth. (One out of every four animal species is a beetle!)

Open to: Youth in grades 7 to 12

Application deadline: September of each year, please check website for current deadline

Find out more at: http://www.coleopsoc.org/default.asp?Action=Show_SocietyInfo&ID=Youth

Integration of GIS for U.S. Schools and Youth Groups

What: Offering support of its geospatial outreach, education, and community involvement efforts. The goal of this program is to foster and support the integration of geographic information system (GIS) software in U.S. K-12 and after school activities.

Open to: K-12 Schools & Youth Clubs

Application deadline: Check Website

Find out more at: <http://www.esri.com/industries/education/schools>

Volunteer Stream Monitoring Grants

What: MiCorps provides grants for water quality monitoring in streams and rivers that can be safely waded. The grants may be used to fund a local monitoring coordinator or to purchase water quality monitoring supplies or both. MiCorps will provide training to the grantees, and the data they gather will be used by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

Open to: Local units of government and nonprofit entities

Application deadline: Check Website

Find out more at: http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3307_3515-314498--,00.html

President's Environmental Youth Awards (PEYA)

What: This award recognizes young people across America for environmental projects that show their commitment to the environment. (A Michigan 4-H'er won this award in 2005!) To apply submit evidence of a completed project and an application to your regional EPA office. Project must have started by January 1, 2016.
Open to: Students from all 50 states and the U.S. territories. Student applicants must be sponsored by an adult.
Application deadline: March 1, 2017

Find out more at: <http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/peya/index.html>

FishAmerica Foundation Conservation Grant

What: This program funds hands-on, action-oriented conservation projects that have clear and identifiable benefits to sport fishing populations and the sport of fishing. The grant provides an average of \$7,500.
Open to: Nonprofit organizations such as sporting clubs, civic associations, conservation groups and more. Applications are accepted year-round with a 9- to 12-month review period.

Find out more at: <http://www.fishamerica.org/grants/>

Career Preparation & Work Experience Activities

Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program

What: Students selected for this program are matched with a professional mentor in their area for a summer-long, hands-on experience in a marine or freshwater setting. A \$3000 scholarship is awarded to each student accepted into the program.

Open to: All students in grades 11 and 12.

Application deadline: January 31, 2017

Find out more at: http://fisheries.org/hutton_gen

National Youth Science Camp

Date & Location: TBD, at Camp Pocahontas (also known as Camp Thornwood) just outside of Bartow, West Virginia

What: The National Youth Science Camp is an intense, three-week camp for young scientists the summer after they graduate from high school. In a rustic setting, students from around the country are challenged academically in exciting lectures and hands-on studies, and have many opportunities to push themselves physically in an extensive outdoor program, gain a new and deep appreciation for the great outdoors, and establish friendships that last a lifetime. This is an all-expenses-paid program including transportation.

Open to: High school seniors who have or who will graduate from high school between July 2016 and June 2017.

Application deadline: March 1, 2017

Find out more at: <http://www.nysc.org/>

Earthwatch Institute

What: Earthwatch Institute provides opportunities for high school and college-age students to become volunteers on worldwide expeditions where they work side-by-side with scientists. This is a great chance to gain first-hand experience. Expeditions focus on a variety of topics ranging from rainforest ecology to archaeology.

Find out more at: <http://www.earthwatch.org/aboutus/jobs/>

MSU Career Planning Resources

What: The MSU Career Services and Placement website provides career exploration resources that can help you decide on a major or career.

Find out more at: <http://www.csp.msu.edu>

MSU College Planning Resources

What: Planning for college during middle school and early high school years will help you determine not only your career goals, but also what type of college experience will best suit your needs, interests and expectations. College planning information for middle- and high-school-aged students can be found on the MSU Admissions page called "MSU's College Planning Guide."

Find out more at: <http://admissions.msu.edu/admission/highschool.asp>

MSU Pre-College Programs

Experience MSU early by attending one or more 4-H pre-college programs. You can find about other MSU pre-college programs at <http://www.spartanyouth.msu.edu/>.

- **4-H Capitol Experience**

Dates & Location: March 19 to 22, 2017, in Lansing

What: This MSU pre-college program explores civic engagement and public policy in Lansing. You'll discover a citizen's role in the state government, network with other students, explore new careers and much more!

Cost: \$310 for adults and current 4-H members; \$320 for those not in 4-H.

Open to: High school students and adult chaperones.

Registration deadline: February 10, 2017

Find out more at: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/4_h_capitol_experience

- **4-H Exploration Days**

Dates & Location: June 21 to 23, 2017, at Michigan State University

What: This MSU pre-college program gives young people a chance to experience college life, learn new ideas and skills, and meet people from across Michigan. Approximately 2,500 participants annually attend from across the state. Nearly 200 action-filled classroom and field trip sessions are offered throughout the MSU campus and at various off-campus locations.

Open to: Youth aged 11 and up and adult chaperones.

Cost: \$165 for adults and current 4-H members; \$175 for those not in 4-H (Last year's Price)

Registration period: Opens mid-March, early registration is encouraged for best selection.

Find out more at: The registration book will be available online at

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/4_h_exploration_days and from county MSU Extension offices.

- **4-H Great Lakes & Natural Resources Camp**

Dates & Location: July 30 to August 5, 2017, at Camp Chickagami in Presque Isle County

What: This MSU pre-college program teaches young people about Michigan's diverse natural resources, environmental science, the Great Lakes ecosystems and management issues, and related career exploration. It is recognized as one of the top 4-H natural resources and environmental science programs in the nation! In 2008, the camp was recognized as a National 4-H Program of Distinction. In 2009, it received the National 4-H and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Natural Resources Conservation Education Award, and in 2011 it was one of ten programs selected nation-wide to be part of an in-depth case study of high-quality 4-H science programs.

Open to: 70 teens who are aged 13 to 15 by July 1, 2017 or will be in grades 8-10 fall 2017

Cost: \$345 for current 4-H members; \$375 for those not in 4-H.

Registration period: March to April 30, 2017.

Find out more at: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/4_h_great_lakes_natural_resources_camp and from county MSU Extension offices.

- **Michigan 4-H Youth Conservation Council**

Dates & Location: Fall 2017 to Spring 2018, meetings held at Camp Tuhsmehta or Lansing

What: This teen leadership program provides:

- A leadership and confidence-building opportunity for teens.
- Acquisition of important life skills, experiences, knowledge and understanding of current environmental issues.
- A chance to explore solutions to environmental issues and provide recommendations based on research.
- "Youth voice" in state government public policy-making through testimony presentation and written recommendations at a Michigan House or Senate committee meeting.
- Exposure to a number of career possibilities and mentoring from caring adults.
- Life-long benefits for teens as future community leaders and stewards of Michigan's natural resources.
- New friendships with others from across Michigan.

Open to: Youth aged 13 to 19.

Cost: None other than your transportation to and from meetings.

Application deadline: End of September annually

Find out more at: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/4h_youth_conservation_council

RISE (Residential Initiative on the Study of the Environment)

What: RISE is a residential program for MSU students interested in the environment. RISE provides an opportunity for students who have been active in environmental issues in high school to pursue their interests in college. The program offers students a close-knit community of learners with shared academic and career goals within the larger context of the university. As a RISE scholar, students will live and participate in environmental activities with other students interested in the environment on the RISE floors in Hubbard Hall. You'll take classes and study together with other RISE students in special reserved sections of math, chemistry, biology and ATL. RISE scholars will receive free tutoring in math and chemistry, and receive career development updates and advising on environmental internships, summer jobs, research positions, conferences and seminars through the RISE program office. You'll also work toward completing a specialization in environmental studies.

Find out more at: <https://rise.natsci.msu.edu/>