

Connecting Children and Nature Program Resources

Compiled By: National Environmental Education Foundation

America the Beautiful

- **Operation Green Plant** (http://www.america-the-beautiful.org/free_seeds/index.php)
Get free seeds to start your own school garden!

Children and Nature Network

- **Research and Studies** (<http://www.childrenandnature.org/downloads/C&NNHealthBenefits.pdf>)
Summarizes four volumes of research on the benefits of nature and the outdoors to children's health
- **Nature Clubs for Families** (<http://www.childrenandnature.org/movement/naturalfamilies/clubs/>)
Find a nature club near you, access tools to start your own nature club
- **Nature Stories and Activities** (<http://www.childrenandnature.org/naturestory/>)
Descriptions of family activities and corresponding nature stories
- **Newsletter** (<http://www.childrenandnature.org/getinvolved/signup/>)
Sign up to receive the C&NN newsletter to help stay current on the movement to connect children and nature

First Lady's *Let's Move!* Campaign

- **Let's Move Outside** (<http://www.letsmove.gov/letsmoveoutside.php>)
Lists "Where to Go" and "What to Do" outside

KABOOM! (<http://kaboom.org/>)

- **Find a playspace** (<http://playspacefinder.kaboom.org/>)

National Audubon Society

- **Audubon Centers** (<http://www.audubon.org/search-by-zip>)
Find a center near you!
- **Nature Camps** (<http://education.audubon.org/nature-camps>)
Audubon nature camps organized by location
- **Family Time** (<http://education.audubon.org/family-time>)
Activities and tips to help families get outside
- **Audubon at Home** (<http://audubonathome.org/>)

Links to resources on how to create a healthy yard and instructions on how to create habitats for bees, bats, birds, and more

National Environmental Education Foundation

- **Children and Nature Initiative** (http://www.neefusa.org/health/children_nature.htm)
Specially designed prescription pads, patient brochures, environmental history forms, fact sheet highlighting key scientific studies, training PowerPoint
- **National Public Lands Day** (<http://www.publiclandsday.org/>)
The nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands Americans enjoy
- **National Environmental Education Week** (<http://www.eeweek.org/>)
The nation's largest environmental education event held each year the week before Earth Day
 - Nature Center Map (http://eeweek.org/nature_centers.htm)
- **Classroom Earth** (<http://www.classroomearth.org/>)
An online resource designed to help high school teachers include environmental content in their daily lesson plans
- **Planet Connect** (<http://www.planet-connect.org/>)
An online social network where high school students can learn about current environmental issues, funding opportunities, green colleges and environmental careers
- **Earth Gauge Kids** (<http://www.earthgauge.net/kids/index>)
Quizzes and activities that make the connection between weather and the environment, with a new theme each month

National Park Service

- **Junior Rangers** (<http://www.nps.gov/learn/juniorranger.cfm>)
National Park Service Junior Rangers complete a series of activities during their park visit, share their answers with a park ranger, and receive an official Junior Ranger badge or patch and Junior Ranger certificate
- **Park Fun Sites** (<http://www.nps.gov/learn/parkfun.cfm>)
Lists things to do in each National Park

National Park Trust

- **Where's Buddy Bison Been? Initiative** (<http://www.buddybison.org/>)
Attach Buddy Bison to your white coat or scrubs to inspire children and families to get outside. You can also purchase Buddy Bison from the website to use as a reward. Kids can even take the **Buddy Bison Challenge** to see how many park visits they can make this year!
 - [http://buddybison.org/files/BBChallengeFinal\(1\).pdf](http://buddybison.org/files/BBChallengeFinal(1).pdf)

National Wildlife Federation

- **Get Outside** (<http://www.nwf.org/Get-Outside.aspx>)
 - **Download Be Out There's Outdoor Family Fun Guide**
- **Report: Back to School: Back Outside!** (<http://www.nwf.org/Get-Outside/~media/PDFs/Be%20Out%20There/Back%20to%20School%20full%20report.ashx>)
How Outdoor Education and Outdoor School Time Create High Performance Students

Nature Bag (<http://www.naturebag.com/>)

Nature Rocks

- Use this site to find fun nature activities and events for kids in your area (<http://www.naturerocks.org/>)

Outdoor Foundation

- **Outdoor Nation** (<http://www.outdoornation.org/>)
- **Programs to Help Youth Get Active** (<http://www.outdoorfoundation.org/programsearch.php>)
Searchable database that includes national, regional and local outreach programs

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- **Let's Go Outside** (<http://www.fws.gov/letsgooutside/>)
Provides resources for kids, parents, and educators including a list of summer camps for kids and a scavenger hunt for families
- **Junior Duck Stamp Program** (<http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck/>)
Dynamic arts curriculum that teaches wetlands and waterfowl conservation to students in kindergarten through high school
- **Neighborhood Explorers** (<http://www.fws.gov/neighborhoodexplorers/>)
Online video game aimed to encourage kids to go outside and learn about the environment
- **Pollinators** (<http://www.fws.gov/pollinators/Index.html>)
Plant a pollinator garden or build a bee box!
- **The Teddy Project** (<http://aiawebraising.net/teddyproject/index.html>)

U.S. Forest Service

- **Forest Service Kids** (<http://www.fs.fed.us/kids/>)
- **Discover the Forest** (<http://www.discovertheforest.org/>)
Find forests and parks near you and access ideas for what to do outside
- **NatureWatch** (<http://www.fs.fed.us/outdoors/naturewatch/>)
Search for places to view wildlife and view descriptions of the sites, with maps and photographs

WE CAN! – National Heart Lung and Blood Institute

- **Tips for Getting Active** (<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/heart/obesity/wecan/get-active/getting-active.htm>)
- **Make an Activity Plan** (<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/heart/obesity/wecan/get-active/activity-plan.htm>)