

An Invitation to Attend

You are invited to participate in an Earth Partnership for Schools Institute, Jul 27-31, 2009 at Fallen Timbers Nature Center and UW--Green Bay. Learn how to use ecological restoration as a broad context for teaching and learning.

Restoring a native ecosystem is an exciting, real-life project that weaves through the K-12 curriculum and includes science, math, social studies, language and the arts. During the one-week institute, teachers are trained in the ecological restoration process. Together, teams of teachers and Institute staff begin to develop individualized curricula and school action plans to create meaningful experiences for students through the process of restoring a school site.

Restorations can be small butterfly or vegetable gardens or large woodlands or prairies. NE WI natural restorations might include woodlands, wetlands, oak savanna, and sand barrens.

Summer Institute Participants receive: A comprehensive EPS Curriculum Guide; Hands-on participation in EPS activities; Site visits to restoration projects; Meals; Travel expense reimbursements; 2 Graduate credits

Credit/Cost

Participants will receive 2 college credits from UW-Madison. Tuition will be waived. Participants are responsible for a UW fee of \$98.42. If the fee causes a hardship, please contact Libby Dorn at 920-984-3700. Assistance is confidential.

Participant Selection

Any K-12 team may apply. The primary requirement is a long-term commitment to the school restoration site as an educational project. Other criteria include leadership skills and the potential to bring together a strong team from your school.

Participant Comments:

“Sometimes our skills, talents, senses hibernate. This program has stimulated growth, development and skill, which we can pass on. I've taken many, many graduate courses – this institute excels beyond any that I have taken.”

“...Thank you for an AMAZING experience, not only have each of you taught me an incredible amount about prairie restoration, you have also been wonderful role models as teachers—enthusiastic, passionate, knowledgeable, joyful, friendly, etc... You have inspired me not only to teach about prairie but also ...to become a better teacher!”

“The next day found me filled with awe again as I listened to my classmates share their experiences both professionally and personally. So much new information and knowledge along with new ways of presenting it to students, and yet it didn't feel daunting and draining like most instructional workshops... As a result of this experience I have turned down pages in the curriculum guide with stars and notes as well as filled several pages with notes, ideas, and dreams for the coming year.”

For More Information contact:

Fallen Timbers Nature Center
(920) 984-3700

Cofrin Center for Biodiversity
(920) 465-2342
www.uwgb.edu/biodiversity/eps



Restoration – Based Teacher Professional Development

July 27-31, 2009

**Fallen Timbers Nature Center
Black Creek, WI**

**Cofrin Center for Biodiversity
UW--Green Bay
Green Bay, WI**



No plot of ground is too small to sow the seeds of change

The Earth Partnership Institute

The EPS Program selects teams of K-12 teachers, regional non-formal educators, resource personal and community partners to participate in restoration education institutes. The teams learn about ecological restoration and cultural and natural history as they do hands-on activities. Participants receive the Earth Partnership curriculum, which is cross-referenced with standards and includes curricular objectives and student learning assessment ideas. Each school develops a broad-based, interdisciplinary educational plan that outlines how students will develop and use their restoration.

Our institute is unique because it is focused on restoration in northern WI and as an alternative to small sustainable Heritage gardening projects. We will feature curriculum that incorporates classroom technology like GPS, Flip cameras, and Palm handhelds.

The following priorities guide the Earth Partnership Summer Institutes:

- Provide opportunities to learn the ecological, cultural, and historical knowledge associated with the restoration process, as well as resources and other support for future assistance with their school site restoration and school-wide use of that restoration as an outdoor laboratory.
- Model a variety of teaching methods to provide participants with a rich understanding of ecological restoration and project planning through interdisciplinary, hands-on, inquiry-based teaching.
- Provide participants with opportunities to gain skills and collaborative strategies to assist in strengthening school teams and gain additional community support for their school restoration efforts.



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Learn to educate through Ecological Restoration

Experience how to help students envision, plan and carry out a native plant restoration, native garden or rain garden at your school

Galvanize and work with an interdisciplinary team made up of teachers from your school and local community members.

Develop a custom-designed curriculum by choosing from more than 150 EPS restoration-based activities, ranging from science and math to language arts and social studies.

Infuse environmental education across the curriculum, and get students meaningfully involved in restoration and scientific processes.

Celebrate a personal relationship with the land.

Student Benefits

Planning a restoration provides opportunities to learn ecological concepts and study the natural and cultural history of a site. Using hands-on exploration, students observe, seek information and learn through a process grounded in basic science and enhanced by emotional and creative experiences. Students ask questions—their outdoor laboratory helps them find answers.

Program History

The Earth Partnership Program started in 1991 as an outgrowth of the UW-Madison Arboretum’s focus on ecological restoration as a way of establishing a positive relationship between people and the land. The Arboretum’s world-famous pioneering restoration work, initiated by Aldo Leopold and his colleagues in the 1930s, provides living laboratories for restoration-related research and teaching.

Fallen Timbers Nature Center provides hands-on learning opportunities to nearly 20,000 students throughout the state of WI each year, using hands-on curriculum developed by Fallen Timbers staff and teacher curriculum teams.

The Coffin Center for Biodiversity has developed and manages several natural plantings. They provide resources and programs to promote education, research, and community services that contribute to conservation of the western Great Lakes fauna and flora.



“Kids need to feel important, to feel that they make a difference in this world. If you feel that you are not going to have a future, you are not likely to go out and do something. This program provides ways to give kids a sense of purpose and build competency...”