

ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CONTINUES... Here to help elementary and big kids too!



Book Miss Elisa for a Series of **6** free
Citizen Science sessions
with the District (MCSWMD)
<http://gogreendistrict.com/education.html>
*Educate, inspire, and motivate students while
meeting state standards for your classroom.*

- *Sessions introduce, enhance, and/or reinforce state standards*
- Sessions include state standards in:*
- Science • Literacy
 - Social Studies • Economics • Health and Wellness •
 - Family & Consumer Science • **AND MORE!** Creativity, Collaboration, Critical Thinking, and Communication.

FREE virtual and/or portable programs which teach more than science and meet state standards are offered by the “District” as part of the IDOE curriculum. **Community and Outreach Coordinator Elisa Pokral** *educates, inspires* and *motivates* students to take care of the Earth. **Activities integrate** key environmental concepts that meet state standards. Suggestions for pre and post activities are available. Please inquire.

Science sessions not only promote literacy but science, health and wellness, economics, and social studies. One hour programs are tailored to fit your classroom. Detailed session descriptions listed at gogreendistrict.com. **Contact Elisa Pokral at 349-2866/2020 or email below.**

Environmental Education:

- ♣ Stimulates students to think critically about their own actions and assessing actions of others
- ♣ Fosters understanding about the connections in the use of natural resources, products, waste disposal, and causes and effects of environmental impacts
- ♣ Teaches pollution prevention and behaviors that lead to a healthy body and a healthy world.
- ♣ Creates a positive environmental impact in schools, homes, and the community

Due to program popularity, series is limited to **6 sessions of your choice.**

Detailed session descriptions listed on

gogreendistrict.com

Monroe County Indiana Waste Management District

Book early for the academic year. Schedules fill up quickly.

Email epokral@mcswmd.org or call 349-2866/2020

IN-PERSON

OUTSIDE

VIRTUAL

Programs
in your
school's
preferred
platform

NEW
Environ-
mental
Careers
and
Pandemic
Learning
session

Free in-person, outside, and/or virtual Portable Citizen Science/Environmental Education District Programs For Your Classroom

(Basics of the R's plus Air, Soil, Water, Trees, Habitat, Environmental Careers, and Climate Change)



ENVIRONMENTAL CAREERS AND PANDEMIC LEARNING (grades 6-12)

Is all education ultimately environmental education as writer David Orr states? The pandemic experience has forced us to unravel interconnections among fields and businesses. It challenges us to reexamine subjects from racial injustice to consumerism. The most exciting career opportunities may include the world “environment” in them. Using statements and articles from environmental scientists and other leaders, as well as the students own experience, students will find their own heart and practice in pandemic learning. Students will choose a career and present a family-community to world strategy to reframe that field with the environment at its center. This “new normal” practice will have in mind and heart- health and sustainability for the good of all. (2-part series)

Basics

CLIMATE CHANGE: FAR REACHING EFFECTS, AND WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT

(grades 7-12)

Nature does not negotiate. She responds. Humankind is responsible not only for the quality of life on planet Earth, but equally for the quality of our thoughts, emotions, and actions affecting each other, as well as the life force in all its manifestations. In Session I in groups, students will discover the consequences of climate change for Indiana and the world. In Session II, the groups then present solutions as to what businesses and households can do and are doing to reduce and stabilize climate change. This will contribute to an understanding of how important and precious each of us is to the greater whole and to humanity’s greatest challenge of the 21st century. (2-part series)

POWER OF ONE: Refusing/Reducing/Reusing/Repurposing/Recycling (grades 2-12 to adult)

Are you “Earth-Friendly?” Participants discover their place in the sustainability cycle and learn how to make wiser decisions so that the “power of one” becomes the “power of many.” Motivations for smart shopping, recycling in Monroe County, and saving natural resources are examined. Daily habits and conservation practices create a sustainable world.

In KG-1 SHOW & TELL POWER OF ONE children learn types of materials and how they change shape. They see the power of being part of a sustainable process and play a glass recycling game.

EARTH’S COLORS

(grades K-6)

Life is made of the colors of the Earth and even prehistoric man has attempted to record the colors. Examine the colors of the Earth, a color wheel, prehistoric paintings and find out how humans color the earth every day. Does pollution have a color? How can humans take better care of Earth’s colors?

ECONOMICS OF RECYCLING

(grades 7-12)

Does a strong economy depend upon a healthy environment? Get a grasp on economics, health, and earth’s natural systems and compare your environmental knowledge on the leading causes of pollution. Explore the concept of eco services. How is everyone part of the puzzle—the economics of recycling?

ENERGY

(grades K-6)

The power of the world works in circles and energy is at its core. Energy is everywhere and is in every living and nonliving thing. Energy is what makes things move and grow. It is what makes things work and it is constantly flowing in our world. Explore energy forms and discover how human use of energy has social, economic, environmental, and health impacts.

ENVIROCIRCLES: ARE YOU PART OF WHAT YOU SEE?

(grades 3-12 to adult)

Life is a circle filled with envirocircles. Where do you see yourself in relation to those envirocircles and are you part of what you see? The power of the world works in circles. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle is a circle as well. This session shares cross-cultural references and current habitat challenges in our population, community, and ecosystem. Participants experience a puzzling puzzle and learn how to be part of the envirocircles around us.

HAZARDOUS WASTE IN YOUR HOME AND NEIGHBORHOOD

(grades 4-12 to adult)

What is a healthy home? Problems created by the use of and disposal of hazardous waste are a leading cause of pollution in cities and suburban households in the U.S. Hazardous waste is not just in factories. This is an introduction to proper household hazardous waste usage and disposal habits, which includes paints, cleaners, medical aids, electronics, and other potions. Organic alternatives are introduced.

POPULATION, STUFF, AND LITTER

(grades 6-12)

How does population growth effect the environment and the creation of “stuff?” “Stuff” has a lifecycle of its own, just as humans do. However, sometimes “stuff” becomes litter. Find out what is recyclable, what is biodegradable and what is not, as well as decomposition rates, and some “litter-known” facts. Do you know that plastic cups that are improperly disposed of have an average lifespan the same as yours? Do men or women litter more? Participants examine where litter is most often found and how everyone can control litter and stop it from coming to their front door.

Air**AIR QUALITY: WHAT’S UP, DOWN AND ALL AROUND? THE BIG PICTURE**

Students examine the big picture of this natural resource and how they can help air quality. They discover properties of air such as weight, space, particulate matter, hazards of air pollution, and recognize how air quality affects all things.

(grades K-2)

Soil**WORM MAGIC I: HOW TO COMPOST AND WHY**

(grades K-12)

Did dirt make your lunch? By exploring the foundation of life, participants find that their waste can feed the world. What can be done with meal scraps and yard waste to reduce garbage and pollution, and increase nutrients in our soil to create a healthier Earth? Participants see and understand a conservation connection they won’t forget!

WORM MAGIC II students adopt a classroom bin and learn more specifics about decomposition and what specific food waste can be placed in compost.

(grades K-12)

HISTORY OF TRASH, THE LANDFILL, AND THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG
(grades 4-12)

How have humans throughout history disposed of their trash and how has trash changed over the years. Groups conduct archaeological digs in shoeboxes. Students learn how landfills are constructed and maintained and unearth a variety of items that reveal some interesting things about the people who put them there. What would your trash tell us about you?

Trees

IT'S NOT EASY BEING A TREE/PERSPECTIVES ON TREES (grades K-6)

Why recycle paper? Get to know some amazing forest facts and understand how trees satisfy many needs. Trees have families and visitors as well. Explore the life cycle of a tree, parts of a tree and their functions, how nature naturally recycles, and sustainable forestry.

EVERGREEN TREE TALK (grades K-6)

What is the color green all year round? They are also the oldest living thing in the world, the heaviest living thing on Earth and the tallest thing alive! Investigate the secret life of trees, tree parts, conservation education in presidential history, a president's family who had their own ideas, and some holiday trivia.

PAPERMAKING 101 (grades K-3)

What is the most used product in a school or business that comprises 40% of our waste stream nationwide? It's paper and it's ending up in landfills. In this session, participants make their own paper from scrap paper the class collects prior to the session. They also learn to prevent waste, understand the importance of recycling, a little history of paper, and discover that paper is just one of the more than 5,000 items-- "forest products" made from trees. **NOTE: demo only due to COVID**

Water

FROGS, TOADS, AND WETLANDS (grades K-12)

What can frogs and toads tell us about the environment? For a little creature that sleeps in the mud and eats bugs, its voice is loud and clear. Science has found that when the populations of frogs, toads, salamanders, and other amphibian species decline, all is not well with the environment. Participants learn about the importance of wetlands, what a watershed is, and how to prevent water pollution.

SPLISH SPLASH: THE INCREDIBLE WATER JOURNEY/THE BIG THIRST (grades K-8) Where does water come from, where does it go in our community and beyond, and how do perceptions of water determine actions to conserve it? Participants learn about the water cycle and how water can be saved, not polluted, and not wasted.

Habitat

HABITAT AND THE STREAM EXPERIENCE (grades 4-12)

What is sustainable development? Are there any "empty lots?" This sessions addresses forms of pollution, introduces environmental stewardship, and the importance of planning and altering cities, towns, and neighborhoods with preserving and renewing habitats in mind. After winning one million dollars, student teams design what they wish on a portion of land. Then see what the consequences are of their design and how their plans effect what the others have created.

HABITAT, HOME, COMMUNITY AND WILDLIFE (grades 2-12)

I have a life box and you do too. Home is where the habitat is, and home is an intact life box and a world community that actively protects it. Explore how an ecosystem, a community, and populations interact. Participants are introduced to the natural and built environment, rewilding, the food chain. Protecting place and preservation of green space not only protects quality of life and wildlife, but supports the economy.

HABITAT, HOME, COMMUNITY, AND WILDLIFE (grades K-1)

Home is where the habitat is. What makes a home or habitat special? Explore how people create a healthy, sustainable community. Participants discover that a healthy community needs a variety of habitats.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE AND GROWING "WILD": PART I AND/OR PART II (grades 3 through adult)

OPTIONS: Dilemma Eco/Enviro Ethics situations for groups to discuss and share with class/stories and energy for class or assembly/rewilding activities for class.

This can be used as a classroom/with using energy and stories as an assembly program as a kickoff or a finale to a year filled with a series of environmental education presentations. If a Part II is chosen, a culminating project could be done either individually or as a group. In Part II, participants design a plan to take action on an environmental challenge. Participants experience the problem solving process of the 4 “D’s:” STEP 1 Define the Problem (may have already chosen mission) STEP 2 Develop a Plan and write a mission statement, STEP 3 Do the Plan, STEP 4 Defend the Solution, Assess the impact. Students decide on assets (what they have) and deficits (needs) and discuss how adults can help them.

Wildlife

BUTTERFLIES, OTHER INSECTS, AND YOU (grades K-6)

What touches the earth delicately, and leaves beautiful reminders of its presence in places around the world? Yes, insects called “butterflies.” Insects are not often thought of as beautiful or helpful yet whether beautiful, ugly, or unusual looking, they are all part of the ecosystem and they help keep our world healthy. Helping insects restores imperiled ecosystems. Participants understand how pollution and habitat loss can harm the smallest of things.

INSECTS RULE (grades 4-8)

Insects are the glue that holds life on Earth together. This session promises to make you think about your role in relationship to these tiny creatures. Because butterflies are an “indicator species,” we will take an up close look at challenges they face and ways we can help them and ourselves. Participants become conscious of the effects of pesticide use on soil, food sources, and all living creatures and are introduced to some safety measures with household hazardous waste for both humans and insects.

CREATURE TEACHERS AND SPECIES SURVIVAL (grades 2-6)

Modern Olympics, an international athletic competition held in selected cities, are games that go on every day in both the human and animal world. Both animals and humans use their intelligence to do many things. Take a look at how species communicate, care for themselves and their families, the various ways animals and humans survive and thrive, and signals and senses they use. Groups brainstorm types of pollution humans create, how it affects animals and humans, and solutions for how humans can help all life forms.

SEE FROGS under “Water”

GREAT SPINNERS: SPIDERS AND MAN (grades K-6)

Both spiders and humans play a vital role in maintaining Earth’s ecological balance. You can find spiders or their presence in every house, whether people are living there or not. You can also find evidence of human impact everywhere, whether humans are living there or not. Participants become conscious of the effects of pesticide use (HHW) on soil, food sources, and all living creatures. What would happen if insects were to vanish?

Let’s Celebrate!

EARTH TALES THAT EDUCATE (grades K-6)

Stories and activities that honor Earth Day every day. Standards for this session vary from year to year depending on session content.

A series is most commonly requested. Program sessions and standards listed on the District’s site at

gogreendistrict.com

BOOKING NOW through the academic year Email epokral@mcswmd.org or call 349-2866/2020