

2008-2009



OMAHA METRO

Environmental Education Resource Guide

Prepared by the Green Omaha Coalition's Education Council



greenOMAHAc**coalition**
education. advocacy. outreach.

Introduction

Thank you for taking the time to look at the Green Omaha Coalition's Omaha Metro Environmental Education Resource Guide. This guide was compiled to provide educators a list of the environmental education opportunities that are available in the Omaha area and give detailed information regarding their programs. Our hope is that educators will discover new organizations they didn't know about as well as different programs at some of the more well known organizations.

Entries include the following information for each organization:

Contact information

Environmental Focus/Topics (*Air, Water, Energy, etc*)

Programs and resources available

In-class presentations and field-trips (most common)

Educator training

Volunteer/Service Learning opportunities

Teacher and/or student educational materials

Funding opportunities

Target Grade Level

Cost

A brief description of the organization and what they offer

Note: The table of contents lists the program types available for each organization. This allows educators looking for a specific program type to quickly find which organizations offer them.

The GOC's Omaha Metro Environmental Education Resource Guide was produced by the members of the GOC's Education Council and is by no means a comprehensive list. This is a living document with entries added and updated in each new edition. If you are aware of programs that are not included or would like to participate with any of our initiatives, please contact the Green Education Council via the GOC website: www.greenomahacoalition.org.

Thank You!

Acknowledgments

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2 Fold LLC | www.2foldstudio.com | 303.960.9695

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F Field Trips

I In-class Presentations

TR Teacher Resources

V Volunteer Opportunities

EM Educational Materials

FO Funding Opportunities

Allwine Prairie Preserve

14810 State Street
Bennington, NE 68007

T 402.554.3378 | 402.554.2641
F 402.554.3532

www.unomaha.edu/prairie

CONTACT:

Dr. Tom Bragg | tbragg@mail.unomaha.edu

PROGRAM TOPICS:

Habitat/Wildlife Conservation, Water

PROGRAM TYPES:

Field Trips, In-Class Presentations, Volunteer/Service Opportunities

TARGET GRADE LEVELS:

All

COST:

Free

Allwine Prairie Preserve is a 63 hectare (160 acre) tallgrass prairie preserve, located approximately 12 miles from downtown Omaha. Established in 1970, the tallgrass prairie restoration is the 6th oldest in the nation. Managed by the Department of Biology of the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the preserve contains spring-fed Glacier Creek, providing the tallgrass prairie ecosystem and headwaters stream that characterize the historic natural community of eastern Nebraska.

The objective of Allwine Prairie Preserve is to provide the Omaha metropolitan area a diverse and dynamic landscape-level tallgrass prairie and wetland complex where visitors and students can come to study or appreciate our natural tallgrass prairie heritage. At the same time, the preserve provides habitat for native prairie plants, animals, and other organisms, for which little such habitat remains. Over the years, the preserve has been visited by a diversity of groups and individuals but the greatest use is by educational institutions at all levels. Many of the preserve activities, including habitat restoration and environmental monitoring, either are supported by community volunteers or provide opportunities for interns and work-study students. Those using the preserve not only learn basic ecological concepts but also have the opportunity to obtain an appreciation of environmental issues in general and our tallgrass prairie natural heritage.

American Institute of Architects

PO Box 31337
Omaha, NE 68131

T 402.390.4217
F 402.391.8564

www.aiaomaha.org

CONTACT:

Jeff Monzu | jmonzu@leoadaly.com

PROGRAM TOPICS:

Air, Energy, General Environment, Recycling/Waste Reduction, Water

PROGRAM TYPES:

Field Trips, In-Class Presentations

TARGET GRADE LEVELS:

All

COST:

Free

American Institute of Architects (AIA) Omaha is the local chapter of the professional organization for architects. They have members who give in-class presentations and field trips on a number of topics, please contact us for additional information. The local chapter also has programs which vary from month to month; see website for applicable information.

American Society of Landscape Architects Great Plains Chapter

8404 Indian Hills Dr
Omaha, NE 68114

T 402.399.1399
F 402.392.6713

<http://host.asla.org/chapters/greatplains/>

CONTACT:

Brad Young | brad.young@hdrinc.com

PROGRAM TOPICS:

General Environment, Habitat/Wildlife Conservation, Water,
Land Use/Planning, Sustainable Design

PROGRAM TYPES:

Field Trips, In-Class Presentations

TARGET GRADE LEVELS:

All

COST:

Free

American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) is the professional organization for landscape architects and the Great Plains chapter includes the Omaha area. Landscape architecture encompasses a wide range of disciplines, from urban planning to planting design to sustainability. Members of the organization are available give presentations and field trips on a variety of topics. Please contact for topics and additional information.

Arbor Day Farm Tree Adventure

2611 Arbor Avenue
Nebraska City, NE 68410

T 402.873.8717
F 402.873.3151

www.arbordayfarm.org

CONTACT:

Susan Billups | contact@arbordayfarm.org or tours@arbordayfarm.org

PROGRAM TOPICS:

General Environment, Habitat/Wildlife Conservation, Energy, Water

PROGRAM TYPES:

Field Trips, Volunteer/Service Opportunities, Student and Teacher Educational Materials, Overnights and Birthday Parties

TARGET GRADE LEVELS:

K-12

COST:

Adult \$6.50, Child \$4.50

Visitors are inspired by nature at Arbor Day Farm, a 260-acre national historic landmark that was originally part of Arbor Day founder J. Sterling Morton's estate. Arbor Day Farm's Tree Adventure carries on the mission – to plant, nurture and celebrate trees – of its parent organization, the Arbor Day Foundation.

The Tree Adventure serves as an educational setting designed to engage visitors of all ages in Morton's legacy of tree planting and stewardship. With fun, educational attractions and numerous conservation demonstrations, the Tree Adventure provides unique and varied experiences including field trips for schools and youth organizations as well as experiential programs for visitors of all ages.

Programs available include Discovery Ride, Nature Explore Classroom, Adventure Hike, Seeds and How They Travel, Native American Plant Uses, Wildlife Habitats, Bees and Blossoms, Be a Tree Sleuth, Exploratory Trail, Apple Harvest, Renewable Energy, Tree Factory, Web of Life, Nature Scavenger Hunt, Sharing Walk, Water and Stream Studies and Scout Badge Work.

Fontenelle Nature Association

1111 Bellevue Blvd N.
Bellevue, NE 68005

T 402.731.3140
F 402.731.2403

www.fontenelleforest.org

CONTACT:

Julie Huffman | jhuffman@fontenelleforest.org

PROGRAM TOPICS:

General Environment, Habitat/Wildlife Conservation, Water, Raptors, Climate Change and Carbon Cycle

PROGRAM TYPES:

Field Trips, In-Class Presentations (if necessary), Teacher Resources, Volunteer/Service Opportunities, Student and Teacher Educational Materials

TARGET GRADE LEVELS:

All

COST:

\$3-\$5 per student

Fontenelle Nature Association's mission is to enhance human stewardship of the natural world by providing students and visitors with quality environmental and natural science education. Annually, more than 30,000 children participate in our classes at the Fontenelle Forest Nature Center or Neale Woods Nature Center.

The full-time education department offers a pre-kindergarten through sixth grade natural science curriculum to all students within the greater metropolitan area of Omaha. The courses are based on Nebraska State Science Standards with learning objectives developed to meet grade-level Content Standards. Each course contains an interactive indoor presentation and outdoor field study. Classes can also be customized to fit your curriculum needs. Fontenelle Nature Association also offers public programs and educational events throughout the year at both locations.

Green Hearts Institute for Nature in Childhood

4502 South 42nd Street
Omaha, NE 68107

T 402.344.8711
F 402.344.8712

www.greenheartsinc.org

CONTACT:

Ken Finch | kfinch@bigmuddyworkshop.com

PROGRAM TOPICS:

General Environment, Children's nature-based play, Nature preschools, Kidscaping

PROGRAM TYPES:

Teacher Resources, Keynote Speaking, Consulting

TARGET GRADE LEVELS:

Pre-K-6th

COST:

Varies

Green Hearts is one of the country's first organizations entirely dedicated to promoting and expanding children's nature-based play, which research has found to be the most common influence on the development of lasting conservation values. Currently our primary services are (1) educational advocacy about nature play, via speaking and writing; and (2) consulting with other organizations interested in developing resources for nature play, such as natural playgrounds or nature preschools. In the future Green Hearts will develop and operate a network of Children's Nature Centers. Each of these Centers will offer a nature preschool as its core program, supplemented by a variety of other play-based nature programs and activities for children. We are currently in the planning and design process for our first Center, which we hope to open in 2010 near the Omaha suburb of Papillion. Green Hearts is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit conservation organization.

Green Omaha Coalition

1425 Jones Street
Omaha, NE 68102

T 402.345.3060

www.greenomahacoalition.org

CONTACT:

Nicolette Amundson | namundson@bvh.com

PROGRAM TOPICS:

General Environment

PROGRAM TYPES:

Teacher Resources

TARGET GRADE LEVELS:

All

COST:

Free

The Green Omaha Coalition (GOC) strives to promote a healthy, sustainable community through partnerships, policy, and smart solutions. Primarily, the GOC intends to accomplish its mission through leadership and coalition building with public and private sector entities and residents as a whole – fostering collaboration with key stakeholders in the community to accelerate the adoption of green practices, policies, and programs. The GOC is lead by an executive board and has five councils focusing on various aspects of the community. The Education Council, lead by Dave Lampe, works with the educational community to promote sustainability throughout the learning environment. Their goal is to build partnerships within and become a resource and facilitator for the educational community. In addition to this guide, they are holding round table events with local educators, giving presentations to schools and compiling a list of funding sources. The mission of the Neighborhood Council, led by Daniel Lawse, is to promote a sustainable way of life in our neighborhoods. The Public Agency Council, led by Katie Torpy, is a forum for local municipalities and public utility groups to collaborate on green initiatives. The mission of the Business Council, led by Marcella Thompson, is to create a network of businesses interested in sharing sustainable practices and recognize leading green businesses in Omaha. The Design and Construction Council, led by Ron Duce, is a collaborative effort amongst design and construction professionals to increase awareness amongst the construction community through educational program and resource development. Please see the GOC website for contact information and more on each council.

The Groundwater Foundation

5561 S 48th Street, Suite 215
Lincoln, NE 68516

T 402.434.2740
F 402.434.2742

www.groundwater.org

CONTACT:

Carla Otradosky | cotredosky@groundwater.org

PROGRAM TOPICS:

Water

PROGRAM TYPES:

In-Class Presentations, Teacher Resources, Volunteer/Service Opportunities, Water Education, Student and Teacher Educational Materials

TARGET GRADE LEVELS:

All

COST:

Free

The Groundwater Foundation makes learning about water interactive, fun, and exciting. The Groundwater Foundation's educational resources include groundwater education activity books, basic and advanced hands-on groundwater modeling kits, resource books for organizing water education events, and educational games. The Groundwater Foundation also provides many resources and programs that educate communities and citizens about groundwater protection, conservation, and other current issues. More information about all of The Groundwater Foundation's current programs and resources is available at www.groundwater.org.

Heron Haven

11809 Old Maple Road
Omaha, NE 68164

T 402.493.4304
F 402.493.0373

CONTACT:

lone Werthman | iowerthman@aol.com

PROGRAM TOPICS:

General Environment, Habitat/Wildlife Conservation, Water

PROGRAM TYPES:

Field Trips, In-Class Presentations

TARGET GRADE LEVELS:

All

COST:

Donations appreciated

The Speakers Bureau of the Heron Haven Environmental Education Center has a variety of programs for presentation at your choice of location or the Heron Haven Center. In addition, they can create new programs especially designed for your needs. The programs can also be combined with a tour of the wetlands and a walk on the boardwalk.

The following is a list of presentations that have already been developed:

1. Heron Haven: Omaha's New Wetland Sanctuary
2. All About Birds
3. Feeding Birds in Winter
4. Bringing Back our Bluebirds
5. It all Started with the Birds: The Story of the National Audubon Society
6. The Phenomena of the Sand Hill Cranes in Nebraska
7. Nature's Flying Flowers: Butterflies and Moths
8. Nebraska's Wildflowers
9. The Unique World of Mushrooms
10. A Journey into the Wonderful World of Nature
11. Back to the River: The Missouri River
12. Jewel of Nebraska: The Niobrara River
13. Platte River: Its History, Problems and Solutions
14. Appreciating Prairies
15. Water: Nebraska's Wealth, Nebraska's Treasure

Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities

1004 Farnam Street, Suite 101
Omaha, NE 68102

T 402.933.0080
F 402.933.0082

www.ecospheres.com

CONTACT:

Katie Torpy | ktorpy@sustainabledesign.org

PROGRAM TOPICS:

Land Use, Best Practices, Regional Planning

PROGRAM TYPES:

Volunteer/Service Opportunities, Public lecture series

TARGET GRADE LEVELS:

N/A

COST:

Free

JCI hosts a collection of materials on green building, updated comprehensive plans from the surrounding communities, and regionally-minded documents available for reference online. Periodic lecture series are open to the public, teachers and students alike. Presentations to specific target groups may be requested.

Keep Omaha Beautiful, Inc

1819 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68183

T 402.444.7774
F 402.444.7351

www.keepomahabeautiful.org

CONTACT:

Cindy Smiley | csmilley@ci.omaha.ne.us

PROGRAM TOPICS:

General Environment, Recycling/Waste Reduction

PROGRAM TYPES:

In-Class Presentations, Other, Teacher Resources, Volunteer/Service Opportunities, Student and Teacher Educational Materials

TARGET GRADE LEVELS:

K-12

COST:

Free

Keep Omaha Beautiful offers resources to aid teachers in educating students about the environment.

Waste: A Hidden Resource is a 6th -12th grade curriculum that encourages investigation, analysis, and decision making about our consumption of resources and management of wastes. It is designed to enrich traditional classroom subjects while focusing on waste issues. *Waste in Place* is a K-12th curriculum to help students make informed decisions about solid waste issues. Topics include understanding waste management, litter prevention, waste reduction, recycling/composting, and the use of waste in energy production. KOB also offers Teacher Kits on Recycling as well as in-class presentations; see website or contact us for additional information.

Lauritzen Gardens

100 Bancroft Street
Omaha, NE 68108

T 402.346.4002
F 402.346.8948

www.lauritzengardens.org

CONTACT:

Emily Smith | e.smith@omahabotanicalgardens.org

PROGRAM TOPICS:

General Environment, Habitat/Wildlife Conservation

PROGRAM TYPES:

Field Trips, In-Class Presentations

TARGET GRADE LEVELS:

K-12

COST:

\$3 per student for tours, fees vary

Lauritzen Gardens is a living museum of unique four-season plant displays, maintained to the highest standards consistent with environmental stewardship. It will provide memorable educational and aesthetic experiences for all. The gardens offers short school tours of 1½ hours and full day field trips. The tours incorporate topics frequently covered in school curriculum. They also offer hands-on classroom activities on topics such as: worms, seeds, vegetables, planting and greenhouse in a bottle. Please contact or see website for additional information.

Lower Platte North Natural Resources District

511 Commercial Park Road
Wahoo, NE 68066

T 402.443.4675
F 402.443.5339

www.lpnnrd.org

CONTACT:

Troy Thompson | ttompson@lpnnrd.org

PROGRAM TOPICS:

Habitat/Wildlife Conservation, Water

PROGRAM TYPES:

Field Trips, In-Class Presentations, Teacher Resources, Volunteer/Service Opportunities, Student and Teacher Educational Materials, Funding Opportunities

TARGET GRADE LEVELS:

K-12

COST:

Generally Free

We offer in-class presentations, education materials (Soil & Water Stewardship Week, Arbor Day trees, etc), festival presentations, a 4th-6th grade festival each spring, a Land Judging Contest each fall, and scholarships for camps, teacher training, etc. We have GPS units, a groundwater flow model, an Enviroscape model, a Classroom Jeopardy unit, and other resources available.

Metropolitan Area Planning Agency

2222 Cuming Street
Omaha, NE 68102

T 402.444.6866
F 402.342.0949

www.mapacog.org

CONTACT:

Paul Mullen | Paul_Mullen@Mapacog.org

PROGRAM TOPICS:

Energy, Transportation

PROGRAM TYPES:

In-Class Presentations, Teacher Educational Materials

TARGET GRADE LEVELS:

7-12

COST:

Free

The Metro Area Planning Agency (MAPA) has programs that deal with conserving energy through better use of our existing transportation systems. This includes more public transit usage, more pedestrian and bike usage as an alternative to the auto, carpooling and more efficient use of the existing roadway system through better management of traffic by using intelligent transportation systems (incident management, traffic cameras, real time traffic information, etc).

Metropolitan Utilities District

1723 Harney Street
Omaha, NE 68102

T 402.504.7215
F 402.504.7020

www.mudomaha.com/board/esb.html

CONTACT:

Tracey Christensen | tracey_christensen@mudnebr.com

PROGRAM TOPICS:

Energy, Water

PROGRAM TYPES:

Field Trips, In-Class Presentations, Student and Teacher Educational Materials

TARGET GRADE LEVELS:

All

COST:

Free

MUD offers information on compressed natural gas, natural gas safety, water quality, water source protection, xeriscaping, water and energy conservation and careers in the water industry. They also have a video library for teachers and community groups to use and offer tours of the water plant facility for K-12 graders from May 1 to September 15.

The Nature Conservancy - Nebraska Chapter

1025 Leavenworth Street
Omaha, NE 68102

T 402.342.0282
F 402.342.0474

www.nature.org/nebraska

CONTACT:

Jill Wells | jwells@tnc.org

PROGRAM TOPICS:

General Environment, Habitat/Wildlife Conservation, Water

PROGRAM TYPES:

Field Trips, In-Class Presentations, Volunteer/Service Opportunities

TARGET GRADE LEVELS:

All

COST:

Free

The Conservancy owns land in many places across Nebraska, and teachers are invited to use these tracts as outdoor classrooms. Examples include observing crane migration in central Nebraska, studying the intersection of six ecosystems at the Niobrara Valley Preserve, or spending time in one of Nebraska's most threatened natural places- the saline wetlands. Other programs include Nebraska's rivers, grasslands, prairie restoration, the Sandhills, the Wildcat Hills, saline wetlands, sandhill cranes, bison, and private lands conservation. Please see website or contact for additional information.

Nebraska Alliance for Conservation and Environmental Education

PO Box 85344
Lincoln, NE 68501

www.nacee.org

CONTACT:

Andrea Cade | andrea.cade@ngpc.ne.gov

PROGRAM TOPICS:

General Environment

PROGRAM TYPES:

Field Trips, Teacher Resources, Volunteer/Service Opportunities, Student and Teacher Educational Materials, Funding Opportunities

TARGET GRADE LEVELS:

All

COST:

Fee for membership and conferences

The mission of the Nebraska Alliance for Conservation and Environmental Education (NACEE) is to facilitate and promote conservation and environmental education for all Nebraska. They represent environmental and conservation based organizations across Nebraska. Educational curriculum and opportunities for educators and students are available on our website. Classes, training workshops and educational programs dealing with conservation and environment education are also promoted on the NACEE website. NACEE has activities and resources to help teach your students about the natural world. Most of the activities and resources are geared toward middle and high school ages, but as with many activities, they can be adjusted to be used with older or younger students.

Nebraska Game & Parks Commission

Nebraska's Aquatic Education Program

21502 W. Hwy 31
Gretna, NE 68028

T 402.332.3901
F 402.332.5853

www.OutdoorNebraska.org

CONTACT:

Andrea Faas | andrea.faas@nebraska.gov

PROGRAM TOPICS:

Habitat/Wildlife Conservation, Water

PROGRAM TYPES:

Field Trips, In-Class Presentations, Teacher Resources, Volunteer/Service Opportunities, Student and Teacher Educational Materials, Youth Fishing Program

TARGET GRADE LEVELS:

All

COST:

Free with pre-registration

Nebraska's aquatic education program is all about water and aquatic wildlife resources. It's about the fish of Nebraska, how they live and the habitats they live in. The Nebraska Aquatic Education program provides hands-on learning experiences, educator resources and volunteer opportunities. There are opportunities and resources available to people of all ages and are ideal for schools, clubs, scouts, 4-H, community centers and special events. The program is housed at the Ak-Sar-Ben Aquarium in Schramm Park which features displays of fish, reptiles and amphibians found in Nebraska.

Nebraska Game & Parks Commission

Nebraska Project WILD

2200 N 33rd Street
Lincoln, NE 68503

T 402.471.5581
F 402.471.4992

www.nebraskaprojectwild.org

CONTACT:

Jeanine Lackey | jeanine.lackey@ngpc.ne.gov

PROGRAM TOPICS:

General Environment, Habitat/Wildlife Conservation, Water

PROGRAM TYPES:

In-Class Presentations, Teacher Resources, Volunteer/Service Opportunities, Student and Teacher Educational Materials

TARGET GRADE LEVELS:

All

COST:

Registration fee for most workshops

Project WILD is an interdisciplinary conservation and environmental education curriculum and activity guide that introduces teachers and students to wildlife. It helps students and educators develop awareness, knowledge, skills and commitment that result in informed decisions, responsible behavior, and constructive actions concerning wildlife and the environment. Training workshops are offered statewide. Flying WILD is a supplemental curriculum that introduces teachers and students to the study of birds and related habitat and conservation issues. Science and Civics: Sustaining Wildlife is designed to serve as a guide for involving students in environmental action projects aimed at benefitting the local wildlife found in a community. Bird, Mammal and Prairie education trunks are free and available for check out to formal and non-formal educators. We offer in class programming within a 60 mile radius of Lincoln on subjects such as mammals of Nebraska, animal adaptations, Snakes (this program is with live native Nebraska specimens), Birds, and aquatic insects. Teacher training is also available.

Nebraska Leopold Education Project

8901 S 154th Street
Omaha, NE 68138

T 402.444.6222
F 402.895.6543

www.lep.org

CONTACT:

Christine Jacobsen | cjacobsen@papiionrd.org

PROGRAM TOPICS:

General Environment, Land Ethics

PROGRAM TYPES:

In-Class Presentations, Teacher Resources, Volunteer/Service Opportunities, Festival and Youth Mentor Hunt Programs, Student and Teacher Educational Materials

TARGET GRADE LEVELS:

5 - Adult

COST:

Varies

The Leopold Education Project (LEP) is an innovative, interdisciplinary, critical thinking, conservation and environmental education curriculum based on the classic writings of the renowned conservationist, Aldo Leopold. The Leopold Education Project teaches the public about humanity's ties to the natural environment in the effort to conserve and protect the earth's natural resources. Teachers take a training course and receive a curriculum book full of activities to do with their students, and training on how to do the activities. The curriculum is heavily based in environmental ethics.

Nebraska State Recycling Association

PO Box 4098
Omaha, NE 68104

T 402.933.3059
F 402.933.3239

www.recyclenebraska.org

CONTACT:

Kelly Smith | ksmith@recyclenebraska.org

PROGRAM TOPICS:

Recycling/Waste Reduction

PROGRAM TYPES:

In-Class Presentations, Teacher Resources, Volunteer/Service Opportunities, Assist schools in setting up recycling programs, Student and Teacher Educational Materials, Funding Opportunities

TARGET GRADE LEVELS:

All

COST:

Free

The Nebraska State Recycling Association is a non-profit dedicated to increasing awareness of recycling. They provide presentation services for all ages and provide several resources on their website for teachers and students looking to learn more about reducing, reusing and recycling their materials. They can also help schools set up recycling programs, compost bins and worm farms.

Omaha Children's Museum

500 South 20th Street
Omaha, NE 68102

T 402.342.6164
F 402.342.6165

www.ocm.org

CONTACT:

Brian Priesman | bpriesman@ocm.org

PROGRAM TOPICS:

Recycling/Waste Reduction, Composting, Environmental Hazards

PROGRAM TYPES:

Field Trips, In-Class Presentations, Teacher Resources, Volunteer/Service Opportunities, Physical Science, Diversity, Art, Life Science, Literature, Student and Teacher Educational Materials

TARGET GRADE LEVELS:

K-3rd Grade

COST:

Varies

The Omaha Children's Museum offers a program called "Garbagena." Garbagena is a recycled super-hero who lives in a garbage can. She helps kids learn the 4-R's of saving the world: Reduce, Reuse, Recycles and RETHINK. This fun, interactive show helps kids learn the ways they can become earth-friendly super-heroes at home and school. Please see website or contact for additional information and programs.

Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo

3701 S. 10th Street
Omaha, NE 68107

T 402.738.2092
F 402.738.2071

www.omahazoo.com

CONTACT:

Elizabeth Mulkerrin | elizabethm@omahazoo.com

PROGRAM TOPICS:

Food/Agriculture, Habitat/Wildlife Conservation, Recycling/Waste Reduction, Water, Science and Math Careers

PROGRAM TYPES:

Field Trips, In-Class Presentations, Teacher Resources, Volunteer/Service Opportunities, Outreach, Student and Teacher Educational Materials

TARGET GRADE LEVELS:

All

COST:

Free to \$150

Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo Education Department is dedicated to enhancing the knowledge of the general public in areas relating to the natural world. To reach a broad and diverse audience, the Zoo offers university-related classes, senior programs, a variety of school programs, long-distance learning seminars, over night programs, birthday parties, scout classes, breakfast programs and children and family classes for free or minimal cost.

Omaha Public Power District

444 S 16th St
Omaha NE 68102

T 402-636-2000

www.oppd.com

CONTACT:

Denise Kuehn | ddkuehn@oppd.com

PROGRAM TOPICS:

Energy, Recycling/Waste Reduction, Sustainability

PROGRAM TYPES:

In-Class Presentations, Teacher Resources, Volunteer/Service Opportunities, Student and Teacher Educational Materials

TARGET GRADE LEVELS:

K-12

COST:

Free

Through the Energy Savings Potential program, OPPD supports research by the University of Nebraska-Omaha on approaches that will result in the adoption of sustainability behaviors by our customers. This may include working with local schools to integrate curriculum that emphasizes sustainability through in-class sessions, curriculum categorization or other methodologies. We also have provided classroom speakers and co-sponsored the OPPD Power Drive with the Nebraska Public Power District.

Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District

8901 S 154 Street
Omaha, NE 68138

T 402.444.6222
F 402.895.6543

www.papionrd.org

CONTACT:

Christine Jacobsen | cjacobsen@papionrd.org

PROGRAM TOPICS:

Food/Agriculture, General Environment, Habitat/Wildlife Conservation, Water, Geocaching

PROGRAM TYPES:

Field Trips, In-Class Presentations, Teacher Resources, Volunteer/Service Opportunities, Speakers Bureau, Festival presentations, Student and Teacher Educational Materials, Funding Opportunities

TARGET GRADE LEVELS:

All

COST:

Free

The Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District (NRD) is a governmental organization that seeks to provide quality education about our natural resources and how to use them wisely. Their programs range from Surface and Groundwater programs, to Owl Pellets, and live animal presentations. Contact them with your natural resource topic, and they'll provide a quality program.

Sierra Club - Omaha

5170 Leavenworth Street
Omaha, NE 68106

T 402.551.9480
F 402.551.9490

<http://nebraska.sierraclub.org/movalley/>

CONTACT:

Camellia Watkins | camellia.watkins@sierraclub.org

PROGRAM TOPICS:

General Environment

PROGRAM TYPES:

Field Trips, In-Class Presentations, Volunteer/Service Opportunities

TARGET GRADE LEVELS:

9-12

COST:

Free

The Sierra Club has movies and handouts available that discuss various environmental issues. The most popular videos are those about energy and include "Oil on Ice" and "The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil." Also available is the TV Series, Sierra Club Chronicles, which follows real people fighting for environmental issues around the country. Handouts on a variety of topics are available on the Sierra Club website or contact the Omaha office if multiple copies are needed.

T.L. Davis Prairie

Contact for Directions

T 402.554.3378 | 402.554.2641
F 402.554.3532

www.unomaha.edu/prairie

CONTACT:

Dr. Tom Bragg | tbragg@mail.unomaha.edu

PROGRAM TOPICS:

Habitat/Wildlife Conservation, Water

PROGRAM TYPES:

Field Trips, In-Class Presentations, Volunteer/Service Opportunities

TARGET GRADE LEVELS:

All

COST:

Free

The T.L. Davis Prairie is a 10 hectare (25 acre) preserve along the bluffs of the Elkhorn River in southwestern Douglas County, eastern Nebraska. Donated to the UNO Department of Biology in 2005, the prairie adds a savanna ecosystem to the type of natural habitat available for study and appreciation in the region. Hilltops of the preserve support remnant mixed-grass prairie dominated by big bluestem and sideoats grama while the slopes are largely wooded with mostly bur oak. This diversity of habitat types provides an even greater diversity of plant and animal species. The boundaries of the preserve allow on-site access to the Elkhorn River.

The purpose of the T.L. Davis Prairie is to add depth to the diversity of prairie types available for environmental education and research of Omaha area schools and organizations. The T.L. Davis Prairie is available for research projects, educational activities, and visitations to the extent that such use does not affect the long-term viability of the Preserve. Those using the preserve for whatever reason, not only learn basic ecological concepts but also have the opportunity to obtain an appreciation of environmental issues in general and our historic savanna ecosystem, in particular.

United States Green Building Council Nebraska Flatwater Chapter

P.O. Box 3543
Omaha, NE 68103

T 402.472.4472

<http://chapters.usgbc.org/flatwater/>

CONTACT:

Tim Hemsath | themsath@gmail.com

PROGRAM TOPICS:

Air, Energy, General Environment, Recycling/Waste Reduction, Water, Green Building, Sustainability

PROGRAM TYPES:

Field Trips, In-Class Presentations, Teacher Resources, Volunteer/Service Opportunities, Student and Teacher Educational Materials

TARGET GRADE LEVELS:

All

COST:

Free

Our mission is to serve as a catalyst for change in Nebraska by promoting green building practices, technologies, policies and standards through partnerships with other organizations. We are the front door to the regional and national USGBC network. We can provide connections with the professional green building industry from a pool of diverse members ranging from design, engineering, construction, and financial professionals to passionate student groups in Lincoln and Omaha. The USGBC speakers bureau includes presenters available to discuss a wide variety of Green Building and Sustainability topics. They are currently developing additional handout material & brochures providing support information for these topics.

University of Nebraska - Lincoln Extension Douglas and Sarpy County Office

8015 W. Center Rd
Omaha, NE 68124

T 402.444.7804
F 402.444.6430

<http://douglas-sarpy.unl.edu/>

CONTACT:

Vernon Waldren | vwaldren@unlnotes.unl.edu

PROGRAM TOPICS:

Food/Agriculture, General Environment, Habitat/Wildlife Conservation, Other, Recycling/Waste Reduction, Water, Watershed Management and Landscaping

PROGRAM TYPES:

Field Trips, In-Class Presentations, Teacher Resources, Volunteer/Service Opportunities, Student and Teacher Educational Materials

TARGET GRADE LEVELS:

K-8

COST:

Varies

Extension has educators who teach to youth in a variety of subject areas, from wildlife to water to forestry. In addition there is programming for adult audiences. Explore the website for all available resources.

University of Nebraska - Lincoln Extension Pesticide Education Office

58F Filley Hall
Lincoln, NE 68583

T 402.472.1632
F 402.472.3574

<http://pested.unl.edu>; schoolipm.unl.edu

CONTACT:

Erin Bauer | ebauer2@unl.edu

PROGRAM TOPICS:

General Environment, Other, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), "CSI" Pests and Pest Management Youth Program

PROGRAM TYPES:

In-Class Presentations, Teacher Resources, Student and Teacher Educational Materials

TARGET GRADE LEVELS:

Flexible

COST:

Free

The Pesticide Education Office offers programs that teach about pests and their management using Integrated Pest Management (IPM). IPM utilizes a variety of methods to control pests, such as sanitation, exclusion, mechanical controls, trapping, or lower toxic pesticides that help protect human health and the environment, and save energy. The specific programs offered include Integrated Pest Management (IPM), "CSI" Pests and Pest Management Youth Program (pests as criminals, evidence left behind, ways to catch pests, etc.), and a Pest Private Eye video game.



green**OMAHA**coalition
education. advocacy. outreach.

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