

“Kids CAN Make a Difference” K-12 Earth Day Program 2020

*Help the Earth and Your Students Achieve
MI Science & Social Studies Standards*



Dear K-12 Teachers and Youth Group Leaders:

Earth Day is April 22nd. Schools and community youth groups in Houghton, Baraga, Ontonagon, Gogebic, and Keweenaw counties are invited to participate in the **50th Anniversary Celebration of Earth Day by participating in the “Kids CAN Make A Difference” Program**. The goal of the program is for students to recognize that **THEY can make a difference by becoming informed and taking action in their school and community(ies)** to improve the environment.

Project Requirements & Submission Deadline

1. Students and youth groups **design an action project** that gets students involved with the environment at their school or in their community.
2. Complete attached registration form and project description. *Eligible projects should be new this school year and have substantial progress made by the registration deadline of Thursday, April 16.*

Student Recognition & TWO Grand Prizes

All groups will receive an Earth Day Recognition Certificate. Projects that are creative, incorporate student leadership, improve the environment, and have potential to impact many youth and/or adults, will have their names entered into a special Earth Day prize drawing. **A total of TWO names will be drawn: one in the grades K-5 group and one in the grades 6-12 group** for Houghton, Baraga, Ontonagon, Gogebic, and Keweenaw counties. The lucky groups whose names are drawn will each receive **\$200 for their environmental education project or a field trip to a special place**.

Program Sponsors

This program is co-sponsored by the MTU Center for Science and Environmental Outreach, Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative, Keweenaw Land Trust, Western UP MiSTEM Network, Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (KUUF), and Friends of the Land of Keweenaw (FOLK).

For More Information or To Register

Registration forms are available by contacting Joan Chadde at (906) 487-3341 or jchadde@mtu.edu or from the Center’s website: <https://blogs.mtu.edu/cseo/>

Email your REGISTRATION FORM and PROJECT DESCRIPTION by Thursday, April 16, 2020 to:

“Kids CAN Make A Difference” Earth Day 2020

**Center for Science & Environmental Outreach
115 GLRC - Michigan Technological University
1400 Townsend Dr., Houghton, MI 49931-1295
Fax: (906) 487-1069 Email: jchadde@mtu.edu**

Questions?? Contact Joan Chadde, “Kids Can Make A Difference” Earth Day Program Coordinator

EARTH DAY PROJECT IDEAS & RESOURCES



Here are project ideas and web links to get your class or youth group thinking about what **YOU** can do:

- ◆ Plant a school or community garden that provides wildlife habitat, enhances human habitat, or provides food.
<http://www.nwf.org/schoolyardhabitats/creatinghabitatsites.cfm> & <http://www.kidsgardening.com/>
- ◆ Build bird nesting boxes or bat boxes.
- ◆ Organize an *It's Cool to Carpool* or *Walk to School Day*.
- ◆ Organize a tree-planting project.
- ◆ Start a "Waste Free Lunch Program" <https://www.epa.gov/students/pack-waste-free-lunch>
- ◆ Set up an in-school recycling program:
- ◆ Make a worm compost bin for your school cafeteria.
- ◆ Conduct a storm drain stenciling project. <http://www.earthwater-stencils.com/> (Center has stencils you can borrow.)
- ◆ Display gallon jugs of water equal to what is used for various household activities and/or to produce various goods.
- ◆ Broadcast an Earth Day message over the school PA system or at your local radio station.
- ◆ Decorate paper bags for a local grocery store with earth-friendly messages:
<http://www.earthdaybags.org/>
- ◆ BE CREATIVE!

Resources for Environmental Education

- ◆ Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy
https://www.michigan.gov/egle/0,9429,7-135-3307_3580---,00.html
- ◆ EPA Environmental Education <https://www.epa.gov/students>
- ◆ Earth Day <https://www.earthday50years.com/> <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2020/>



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Project Registration & Description (Must be received by Thursday, April 16th)

1. Name of School/Group/Organization:

Grade(s) of participants:

2. Contact Person (Teacher/Group Leader):

3. Mailing Address:

4. Project coordinator/Teacher phone #:

Email:

5. How many students are directly participating in the project?

Grades of Participants:

6. Name of Project:

7. How many will be reached or positively affected by the project?

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Answer the following questions on two pages (or less). If your students are able, have them complete the project description.

A. Describe your project. When and where is the project taking place?

B. Describe the following:

(i) What is unique or creative about your project?

(ii) How have students been involved in planning and implementing the project?

(iii) How will your project improve the environment?

(iv) How will your project help your school or community?
