

# **INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

## **PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH IN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

updated 2002

This list includes youth organizations in the US with at least some focus on environmental health. We hope you will find this a useful resource for information and materials about other groups with similar missions as well as about groups that might be closer to you geographically. We do not consider this a comprehensive list yet and will continue to update this list periodically. We also welcome your suggestions of additional organizations so that we can create this centralized database for all those who care about educating and empowering the next generation regarding environmental health concerns.

### **Boy Scouts of America**

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the scout oath and law. Scouts may earn a badge in environmental action.

Contact:

Mr. Ed Woodlock, Associate National Director  
Boy Scouts of America  
Council Service Division  
1325 West Walnut Hill Lane  
Irving, TX 75015-2079  
phone: (972) 580-2447; fax: (972) 580-2073  
ewoodloc@netbsa.org

### **Community Alliance for Youth Action**

Contact:

Jerrah Crowder  
ph: 202-986-0206  
thinkcaya@aol.com

### **Environmental Adventure School**

Environmental Adventure School is a program for middle school students in the Lake Washington School District. Students participate in research, hands-on learning, and environmental stewardship and projects in local and state parks. They investigate life and interdependence in wetland, stream, and forest ecosystems and participate in projects to monitor, maintain, and restore habitats and bio-diversity. Students create instructional and interpretive materials, develop and maintain nature trails, and facilitate activities to educate adults, peers, and elementary age children about watershed habitats and issues.

Contact:  
Eileen McMackin  
Lake Washington School District #414  
Finn Hill Jr. High Bldg. 300  
8040 NE 132nd  
Kirkland, WA 98034  
ph: 425-825-1411; fax: 425-702-3304  
Emcmackin@lkwash.wednet.edu

### **The EnvironMentors Project**

The EnvironMentors Project matches urban teenagers with environmental and science professionals. The pairs work together for eight months on environmentally oriented research or community service projects. The mentoring is supplemented with special events and seminars and culminates in a science fair and awards ceremony where participants are recognized for their work. The Project serves to open students' eyes to the contributions they can make to the environment and their communities and gives them the skills, knowledge and discipline for greater success in life. Participants experience improved grades and attitudes, enhanced self-esteem and confidence in their own abilities, and are prepared for college and careers through college planning and career development seminars.

Contact:  
EnvironMentors Project  
1010 Vermont Avenue, Suite 202  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Phone: 202-347-5300; Fax: 202-347-4199  
[www.environmentors.org](http://www.environmentors.org)

### **Environmental Protection Agency**

Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics Office of Pesticide Programs  
Learn About Chemicals Around Your House is a web site designed to allow children (K-8) to explore the chemical risks in their own homes. This straight forward and easy-to-use site gives you a room by room tour of the often times unknown hazards that lurk in our homes.

Contact:  
[www.epa.gov/opptintr/kids/hometour/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/kids/hometour/index.htm)

### **EPA Student Center**

EPA Student Center – Grades 9-12 Here students in middle and high school can explore a wide range of environmental issues. Need help with your homework, or an idea for an environmental club project? This web site is the right place to learn about your environment and how you can protect it for the future.

Contact:  
[www.epa.gov/students/](http://www.epa.gov/students/)

## **Girl Scouts of the USA**

The mission of the Girl Scouts of the USA is to inspire girls with the highest ideals of character, conduct, patriotism, and service that they may become happy and resourceful citizens. Scouts may earn a badge in environmental action.

Contact:

Melissa Algranati, Manager Elliot Wildlife Values Project  
Girl Scouts of the USA  
420 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10018-2798  
(212) 852-5720  
malgranati@girlscouts.org

## **Health and Environmental Resources for Educators**

Health and Environmental Resources for Educators at the University of Washington (HERE@UW). HERE@UW's mission is to prepare future generations to make informed decisions about potential health risks from chemicals in the environment.

Contact:

UW Department of Environmental Health  
4225 Roosevelt Way NE, Suite 100  
Seattle, WA 98105-6099  
ph: 206-616-2643; fax 206-685-4696  
<http://depts.washington.edu/hereuw>

## **Kids Against Pollution**

Kids Against Pollution is a national non-profit organization made up of active youth dedicated to solving and preventing pollution problems through educational projects and events in order to protect children's health and the planet.

Contact:

Kids Against Pollution  
311 Main Street 3rd floor  
Utica, New York 13501  
phone: 315.266.0185  
fax: 315.266.0186  
kap@kidsagainstpollution.org  
[www.kidsagainstpollution.org](http://www.kidsagainstpollution.org)

## **Kids for Saving the Earth Worldwide**

Kids for Saving the Earth Worldwide (KSEWW) mission is to educate, inspire and empower children to protect the Earth's environment. KSEWW provides action-oriented educational materials to kids, families, groups, classrooms and schools.

Contact:  
Tessa Hill  
KSEWW  
P.O. Box 421118  
Minneapolis, MN 55442  
ph: 612-559-1234  
[www.kidsforsavingearth.org](http://www.kidsforsavingearth.org)

### **Kids Saving the Planet**

Kids Saving the Planet. Our mission at this non-profit organization is to increase youth participation in environmental education through the use of games, celebrity endorsements and entertaining activities. "If you make it fun, they will come!" We believe that ALL kids should be given the opportunity to get involved in environmental education and action, and we recognize that some kids need a little extra motivation...a little more incentive. Our design is to pique their interest and provide that incentive. We are doing this through the development of a progressively challenging, interactive, on-line board game that involves research, learning, collaboration, activities, prizes, recognition and awards. The KSP game is much like a treasure hunt, where kids are given clues and then sent out to Environmental Education and Action websites to find the answers they will need to progress through their on-line game boards. The games are not competitive between the kids; rather, collaboration between kids and environmental educators is facilitated. The prizes range from beanie babies to GameBoys to trips to the rainforest to collaborate with researchers.

The KSP organization and mission was born out of the observation that there are already thousands of outstanding environmental organizations and Internet resources that are under-utilized. We were looking for a way to increase utilization of these resources, and channel young people into the vast network of environmental organizations as lifelong members and protectors of the environment.

Contact:  
Peggy Farabaugh, President  
Kids Saving the Planet  
E-mail: [peggy@kidssavingtheplanet.org](mailto:peggy@kidssavingtheplanet.org)  
<http://www.kidssavingtheplanet.org/MakeADifference.ivnu>

### **My Health, My World K-4**

Contact:  
Baylor College of Medicine  
1709 Dryden, Suite 554  
Houston, TX 77030  
ph: 800-798-8244  
[cfe@bcm.tmc.edu](mailto:cfe@bcm.tmc.edu)  
[www.myhealthmyworld.org](http://www.myhealthmyworld.org)

### **National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences**

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)

Teacher Support K-12 is a resource site for K-12 teachers interested in environmental health issues. This site provides funding opportunities, curriculum materials, environmental health fact sheets, pamphlets and games, brain-teasers and jokes for youth.

Contact:

[www.niehs.nih.gov/external/teacher](http://www.niehs.nih.gov/external/teacher)

### **Kids Making a Connection to Health and the Environment**

Kids Making a Connection to Health and the Environment (KMAC Kids)

Crabby Kathy, is a short story written by the KMAC kids in 1998-99. This true story tells of the detective work that these young sleuths needed to do in order to find out why their teacher Kathy was so crabby when she was teaching at their school. If you want to know what makes Kathy so crabby and what the KMAC kids do to solve those problems, you'll have to check out the entire story.

Contact:

[www.niehs.nih.gov/kids/kathy/](http://www.niehs.nih.gov/kids/kathy/)

### **National Future Farmers of America Organization**

The mission of the National Future Farmers of America Organization is to make a positive difference in the lives of young people by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. As part of their curriculum they stress environmental awareness.

Contact:

Becky S. Meyer, Teacher Services Specialist  
National Future Farmers of America Organization  
6060 FFA Drive  
P.O. Box 68960  
Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960  
Phone: (317) 802-4262; Fax: (317) 802-5262  
E-mail: [bmeyer@ffa.org](mailto:bmeyer@ffa.org)

### **National 4-H Council**

The mission of the National 4-H Council. National 4-H Program is to be an uncommon youth development organization promoting innovation and shared learning for youth workers and leaders. As part of their curriculum they stress environmental awareness.

Contact:

Mr. Kashyap Choksi  
National 4-H Council  
Youth Corporate Connections  
7100 Connecticut Avenue  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815-4999  
Phone: (301) 961-2833; fax: (301) 961-2894  
E-mail: [choksi@fourhcouncil.edu](mailto:choksi@fourhcouncil.edu)

## **National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health**

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is the federal agency responsible for conducting research and making recommendations for the prevention of work related disease and injury. Covering the full spectrum of work related illness and injury ranging from lung disease in miners to carpal tunnel syndrome in computer users. NIOSH also researches potentially hazardous working conditions when requested by employers or employees; makes recommendations and disseminates information on preventing workplace disease, injury and disability and provides training to occupational safety and health professionals.

Contact:

[www.cdc.gov/niosh/about.html](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/about.html)

## **Planet Pals**

Planet Pals is a K-4 site with fun games and educational tools for kids. At Planet Pals, kids can learn about the Earth, the wonders of the world – natural & manmade, learn about the issues that are affecting the world and what kids can do to make this world a better place. There's also a page for teachers and parents so that they can better help kids learn about the world around them.

Contact:

25 Star Road

West Newton, MA 02465

ph: 617-244-7531

[www.planetpals.com](http://www.planetpals.com)

## **Planet Repair**

Planet Repair is a resource site for youth environmental groups. This site allows youth to find projects for their youth groups and classrooms. Also, Planet Repair offers a forum for young people to find tips, exchange ideas and share their experiences as the work to better their communities and environments.

Contact:

[www.planetrepair.org](http://www.planetrepair.org)

## **Student Action For the Environment**

Student Action For the Environment (SAFE) was founded in 1987 to address concerns that a student had about lack of recycling at his school. This broadened to the concept of a club where students can share and act on their concerns about the environment, including political action. Since its conception, SAFE has expanded into a regional network of high school groups working independently and coming together on projects such as lobbying and education. SAFE emphasizes the responsibility students must take for their world and for their place in it.

SAFE is a student-run organization. In 1991 SAFE became the only student organization in the United States to write and successfully lobby state legislation. The result was the

Washington State Procurement Law. Two years later SAFE was successful in proposing and lobbying for additional piece of legislation strengthening this law.

SAFE has been honored by Dan Rather of CBS News for its efforts. SAFENET groups and members have received many other environmental awards and honors at the state, county, and local levels.

In addition to Student Lobby Day, SAFE holds a yearly symposium (on February 3rd) and a retreat (in late April). All are welcome.

Contact:

Terry Clayton

Shorecrest High School

15343 25th Ave. NE

Seattle, WA 98155

E-mail: [terry.clayton@shorelineschools.org](mailto:terry.clayton@shorelineschools.org)

### **Student Environmental Action Coalition**

Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC) – pronounced "seek" as in "seeking" – is a student and youth run national network of progressive organizations and individuals whose aim is to uproot environmental injustice through action and education. SEAC defines the environment to include the physical, economical, political and cultural conditions in which we live. By challenging the power structure which threatens these environmental conditions, SEAC works to create progressive social change on both local and global levels.

Contact:

P.O. Box 31909

Philadelphia, PA 19104-0609

ph: 215-222-4711; fax: 215-2896

[seac@seac.org](mailto:seac@seac.org)

[www.seac.org/about.html](http://www.seac.org/about.html)

### **Sierra Student Coalition**

Sierra Student Coalition (SSC) is the student run arm of the Sierra Club. SSC provides opportunities for youth to become active participants in the environmental movement. Students can learn to become leaders through SSC's week long summer leadership camps or put their leadership skills to the test by become student leaders with the Student Sierra Club.

Contact:

Camilla Feibelman, US National Director

P.O. Box 2402

Providence, RI 02906

ph: 1-888-JOIN-SSC

[www.ssc.org](http://www.ssc.org)

## **Tox RAP**

Tox RAP K-9 (Toxicology, Risk Assessment and Pollution) is a three-part curricular series which encourages students to become health hazard detectives to cooperatively investigate environmental health hazards and their impact on human health. By applying an environmental health risk assessment framework, students learn how to state a health problem, investigate hazards and people who may be exposed and identify hazard control methods. A detective theme helps students to study air contaminants and learn the principles of toxicology and the process of risk assessment. Teaching techniques include illustrated stories, problem-based learning, games, graphing, hands-on experiments and case studies. This program was developed by the Research Center, the outreach component of the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute (EOHSI).

### Contact:

Rutgers State University  
170 Frelinghuysen Road  
Piscataway, NJ 08854  
ph: 732-445-0110; fax 732-445-0122  
rc@eohsi.rutgers.edu  
www.isea.rutgers.edu/rc

## **Teens for Recreation and Environmental Conservation**

Teens for Recreation and Environmental Conservation (TREC) is an outdoor expedition-level program designed to expose multi-ethnic teens to environmental education, urban conservation and stewardship, creating an environment for community leadership development.

### Contact: Robert Warner

100 Dexter Ave. North  
Seattle, WA 98109-5199  
ph: 206-684-7097; fax 206-684-7025  
robert.warner@cl.seattle.wa.us  
www.wawebsites.com/trec

## **United Nations Inter-Tribal Youth**

United Nations Inter-Tribal Youth (UNITY) organization. Mission: To foster the spiritual, mental, physical and social development of American Indian and Alaska native Youth and to help build a strong, unified, and self-reliant Native America through greater youth involvement. As part of their curriculum, UNITY stresses environmental action.

### Contact:

J.R. Cook, Executive Director  
United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY)  
P.O. Box 25042  
Oklahoma City, OK 73125  
Phone: (405) 236-2800; fax: (405) 971-1071  
E-mail: cheech@unity.org

## **YMCA Earth Service Corps**

YMCA Earth Service Corps (YESC). Mission: to empower young people to be aware, responsible global citizens through the four tenets of environmental education, leadership development, action and international, cross-cultural understanding. YESC is a nationwide YMCA program promoting youth-driven service learning projects such as water monitoring, storm drain stenciling, tree plantings and educational symposia.

Contact:

Dawn Brevig, Program Director

909 4th Ave.

Seattle, WA 98104

Ph: 206-382-4966; fax: 206-382-7894

E-mail: [dbrevig@mc.seattleyymca.org](mailto:dbrevig@mc.seattleyymca.org)

## **Youth for Environmental Sanity**

Youth for Environmental Sanity (YES!) is a non-profit organization that educates, inspires and empowers young people to join forces for social justice and environmental sanity. YES! has spoken in person to more than 610,000 students in school assemblies and college venues, led hundreds of day-long workshops, and held more than 65 week-long youth training events in Ghana, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Singapore, Taiwan, and across the United States, reaching youth from 45 nations. YES! has distributed tens of thousands of our books and action guides, and co-produced the award winning video, Connect, that aired on MTV in 70 countries as the 1997 Earth Day special.

YES! camps and events include workshops led by inspiring veterans of the movement for a better world, who act as "mentors" for the next generation of social and environmental leaders.

YES! has inspired the formation of more than 400 non-profit clubs and organizations working for positive change, and brought greatly increased membership to hundreds more. YES! alumni have organized gang truces, started recycling programs, broken through stereotypes and prejudice barriers in schools, initiated community gardens and park clean-ups, set up marches and rallies to speak out on issues like environmental justice and the prison industry, and started socially responsible businesses. They have persuaded schools and businesses to purchase recycled products, offer organic and vegetarian options in cafeterias, retrofit their lighting, and offer anti-prejudice trainings.

Contact:

420 Bronco Rd.

Soquel, CA 95073-9510

ph: 877-293-7226; fax: 831-462-6970

[www.yesworld.org/](http://www.yesworld.org/)

## **Youth Venture**

Youth Venture empowers young people to create and launch their own enterprises, and through these enterprises, to take greater responsibility for their lives and communities. It is a leading a growing global liberation movement of young people who are committed to making a positive difference and playing an instrumental role in the welfare of their communities. They are initiating a change in the role of youth in society, and are challenging traditional perceptions of young people as they take the initiative to improve their own lives and those of their communities by launching ventures of their own design. The ventures are as diverse as the needs - ranging from tutoring services to virtual radio stations, from bike stores to dance academies, from video festivals to youth diabetes support groups. What turns these diverse activities into Youth Ventures is that the young people themselves come up with the ideas and control the projects.

What makes Youth Venture unique is that the young people themselves are in charge. They fashion their dreams into realistic goals, build the organizations and lead the projects through to completion. Youth Venture facilitates, but youth leads.

### Contact:

Youth Venture National

1700 N. Moore St., Ste. 2000

Arlington, VA 22209

ph: 703-527-4126; fax: 703-527-8383

[www.youthventure.org/home.asp](http://www.youthventure.org/home.asp)