



2009 Wisconsin High School Conference on the Environment

CALL for Presenters!

OUR CHANGING FORESTS: Challenges and Opportunities for Wisconsin Students Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Dreyfus University Center, UW-Stevens Point
Stevens Point, Wisconsin
8:00 am – 2:30 pm

The Wisconsin High School Conference on the Environment is an annual event held in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. The [Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/youthconference/index.htm) has been coordinating this event for 18 years to provide high school students and teachers opportunities to: learn about current environmental issues, network with other students, and obtain tools and skills to share what they learn with others.

This year's conference will showcase what students throughout the state are doing to sustain Wisconsin's forests. Students will have the opportunity to learn about issues affecting Wisconsin's forests, opportunities to address these challenges, and forest-related careers. They will develop personal, class, and community action plans to help sustain Wisconsin's forests.

We are seeking presenters who can provide information about:

- Current invasive species, land-use, or climate change research or projects involving Wisconsin's forests.
- Forest-focused projects in which students and teachers can become involved
- Steps students and teachers can take to make data and information useful and lead to meaningful results or community action

Proposals are due Monday, August 3, 2009

Information and a presentation proposal form can be found at:
<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/youthconference/index.htm>. Click on Presenters.

Mail to: Gretchen Marshall
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Stevens Point, WI 54481

More information:
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Presenter Details

Goal of the Day

The goal of the day is to get students and teachers excited about sustaining Wisconsin's forests amid the challenges of invasive species, land-use issues, and climate change. This will best be done through interactive presentations that incorporate hands-on activities and discussions. Consider your session to be a workshop that gives participants the information and tools they need to start a new action project or take an existing project to the next level.

Throughout the day participants will learn what it means to be an active citizen and how forest projects contribute to more than just a class grade. Help us stress the fact that students can make a difference and contribute to their community, state, nation, and world.

Audience Overview

- Approximately 250 people will participate in the conference
- 85% of participants will be high school students in 9th-12th grade (14-18 yrs. old)
- 15% will be high school teachers
- Sessions will have 20-30 participants
- Participants are from biology classes, environmental science classes, environmental clubs, etc.
- Participants are from all parts of Wisconsin – urban and rural, small and large schools, socio-economic diversity
- Each teacher can bring up to 8 students – they should have an interest in environmental topics and have leadership or advocacy skills
- Participants indicate the sessions they want to attend prior to coming to ensure even distribution of people in each session

Students Comments about Presentations

- “I learned a lot from the presentations, especially when they involved you participating in discussion.”
- “The concurrent sessions should have more excitement and less PowerPoints.”

Presentation Overview

- Sessions are 40 minutes in length
- We strongly encourage ALL presenters to make sessions as hands-on and interactive as possible. We discourage the use of PowerPoint presentations
- Audio-visual equipment will not be provided, but a screen will be provided in every room
- The conference site has free wireless Internet
- Assistance with technology (connecting to wireless Internet) will NOT be provided

Presentation Guidelines

- Incorporate hands-on activities, discussion, props (equipment, tools, photographs)
- Leave time for questions
- Presentations should include:
 - Current research regarding invasive species, land-use, or climate change in Wisconsin's forests – especially those projects in which students could become involved
 - Action projects to sustain our forests in which students and teachers can become involved and help to address invasive species, land use or climate change issues
 - Steps students and teachers can take to make research data and information useful and lead to meaningful results or community action
 - An overview of forest resource management strategies that addresses one of the issues above and include justification of the strategies, and what participants need to do become involved

Wisconsin High School Conference on the Environment Presentation Proposal Form

Presentation Title: _____

Presentation Description: Write a short (80 words or fewer) description of your presentation. This text will be used in conference registration materials.

How will you engage students in your presentation? What are the interactive elements?

Name of lead presenter: _____

Lead presenter's organizational affiliation: _____

Email address: _____

Web Site: _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Phone number (day): _____ **Fax:** _____

Names and affiliations of additional presenters: _____

AV equipment needed (check all that apply)

Flip chart	
TV/VCR/DVD	

Help students and teachers who are unable to attend your presentation learn about your program. We encourage you to set up an exhibit in the exhibit hall free of charge. The exhibit hall features student poster presentations, professionals speaking about their careers, college displays, and professional exhibits related to energy resource management. Students have one hour during the day dedicated to visiting the exhibit hall.

Will you bring an exhibit about your program? YES NO

Short presenter biography: Please write two or three sentences about yourself. This information will be used in conference materials.