

Pennsylvania

Science Matters eBlast

March 1, 2017



This issue of the Science Matters eBlast is filled with Pre-K through high school opportunities and resources for both teachers and students. Please share the eBlast with your colleagues. It is also available by one of two methods, depending on how you receive this email. You can click on the attachment at the end of the message or locate it in the SAS [Science Learning Community](#).

Science Education in the News

Virtual Reality to enhance science instruction. Check out the article from [the Los Angeles Daily News](#) on virtual reality.

The National Center for Science Education sends out a monthly newsletter which will keep you up to date with national perspectives of science education. [NCSE website](#) has a page to sign up for the [newsletter](#).

Professional Opportunities

English Learners in Science: Supporting Teachers and Students to Use Discourse Tools - The Pennsylvania Department of Education is pleased to announce a unique, no-cost professional learning opportunity for science educators of English Learners. Emily Miller, lead writer for the Diversity and Equity Team on the Next Generation Science Standards and a member of the NGSS writers team, will be presenting a full-day, intensive pre-conference institute at the 2017 Migrant Education Program and ESL conference: Education without Borders on March 27, 2017 at the Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey entitled ***English Learners in Science: Supporting Teachers and Student to Use Discourse Tools***. Based on research from a National Science Foundation grant, Ms. Miller explores how teachers and elementary students engaged in the science practices can use discourse tools to promote more equitable knowledge-building in classrooms with English Learners. To register for this institute, please visit the [conference website](#). Note: Attendance at the full conference is *not* required. There is limited space for this PD opportunity.

Project WET has a [Pre-Conference Workshop](#) at the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators (PAEE) Conference. Date: March 12, 9:00am – 5:00pm. Cost: \$70. Location: McKeever Environmental Learning Center.

How To Use Technology in Early Learning Outdoor Preschool Programs is being offered as a [Pre-Conference Workshop](#) at the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators Conference. Date: March 12, 9:00am – 5:00pm. Cost: \$75. Location: McKeever Environmental Learning Center.

The PA State Library will be holding numerous [professional development opportunities](#) at the PA State Library. For more information, contact Ellen Shenk: 717-783-5969 or ellshenk@pa.gov.

Project Learning Tree (PLT) workshops are available this spring. Costs include materials for each session. PLT is one of the premier environment and ecology programs available for classrooms.

Date	Workshop	Location	Information/Register
3/24	PLT (preK-8) 9:00 – 3:00 \$25	Kings Gap Environmental Education Center	717-486-3799 sberg@pa.gov
3/25	PLT Focus on Forests (PreK-12) 8:30 – 3:00 \$20	Moraine State Park	717-486-3799 sberg@pa.gov

If you are interested in taking a Project Learning Tree workshop but these dates do not work for you, consider PLT's online training option. By accessing PLT's web-site, you can participate in online training and download the electronic materials or purchase the printed materials. More information: www.plt.org/trainings/online/

Registration is open for a FREE Organ & Tissue Donation Awareness Spring Institute in State College, PA on May 11-12, 2017. **Grants up to \$9,000** are available for schools to assist in the implementation of Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness into your curriculum. Space is limited and there is no cost for the Institute. Contact: Sue Howes, [OTDA](#) Coordinator: sue_howes@iu13.org.

PA State Parks continue to [offer innovative, multi-modal educator workshops](#) across the state. New sessions for after the first of the year have recently been added. Participants will receive Act 48 credit.

Date	Workshop	Location	Information/Register
March 11	Go Teach: Snowshoe Educator Workshop	Laurel Hill State Park	Kimberly Peck: kipeck@pa.gov
March 18	Go Teach: GPS Educator Workshop	Presque Isle State Park	Register online
April 1 and May 6	Watershed Education Educator Workshop	Raccoon Creek State Park	Patric Adams: paadams@pa.gov
April 8	Project WILD Educator Workshop	Parker Dam State Park	Email: cahuber@pa.gov
April 8-9	Watershed Education	Presque Isle State Park	Register online
April 13	WILD in the City: Peregrine Falcons Workshop	Rachel Carson State Office Building	Ann Devine: adevine@pa.gov
April 21	Growing UP Wild Educator Workshop	Prince Gallitzin State Park	Beth Garner: bgarner@pa.gov

May 4	Project WET Educator Workshop	Caledonia State Park	717-485-3948
May 6	Project WET Educator Workshop	Black Moshannon State Park	Email: blackmoshannonee@pa.gov
May 10	Project WILD Educator Workshop	Nescopeck State Park	Register online

Penn State CSATS Summer Workshops have been posted and are listed online. [Check them out!](#) Check out their [online calendar](#) that lists upcoming workshops. Three exciting opportunities are listed below.

Grants, Awards, Contests, Professional Opportunities

Award/Opportunity	Deadline	Information
Research Experience for Teachers	March 15	Eight week research at Northwestern
PAEMST	April 1 / May 1	Presidential award for 7-12 teachers of science

For Students

Tyler Arboretum has a number of [programs available for students](#). **Environmental Youth Leadership Development Program is for students ages 16-17**. The Leaders in Training program is an opportunity to develop real world skills and leadership abilities. Teens will participate in activities and projects that are designed to develop skills in teamwork, problem solving, conflict resolution, work ethic, communication, independence, teaching and so much more. Teens will embark on overnight adventures to explore interesting new environments, learn vital wilderness skills and gain an understanding of the interconnectedness of the natural world and our place within it.

Naturalist Camps (ages 11-13) are designed for campers who are ready for a [more in-depth science and nature experience](#). Youth will spend their days investigating the natural world, its inhabitants and the interconnectedness of nature. Each week the group will embark on an off-site adventure, such as rock climbing or kayaking, and also camp out under the stars with an on-site overnight.

Adventurer Camps (ages 13-15) are designed to challenge campers with awesome [outdoor experiences](#) where they investigate different habitats and their complex, ecological interactions. As they explore the streams and trek through the woods they will discover how these interactions are critical for their survival. Then campers will learn important survival skills necessary for them to make it in the wilds. Each week the team will embark on an overnight adventure to explore interesting new environments and to put their camping skills to the test!

PSTA Logo Contest –This first annual event that will allow Pennsylvania students to use their creativity, critical thinking and technology skills to design a logo that will be considered as the symbol for the 2017 PSTA Conference, The Future of Science Education in Pennsylvania. Students can use creativity to design a logo that reflects their interpretation and vision relative to the conference theme and that reflects what they think the future of science education will look like! Students must complete registration at

<https://goo.gl/forms/x4ATtdOor1miKWCu2> by March 17, 2017, and submit their entry by email to PSTA2017LOGO@gmail.com by March 17. Rules and details, including rubric and all student forms, is at: <https://goo.gl/AAV119>

The State Library [Makerspace](#) has a number of student workshops this spring and summer. For information and to register, contact Ellen Shenk: 717-783-5969 or ellshenk@pa.gov.

Date	Topic	Time
March 17	Great Molasses Disaster for Kids	10:00am – 12:00pm
June 7, 14, 21, 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26, August 2, 9, 16	Anatomy and Physiology for Kids	10:00am – 2:00pm
June 7	Paleontology for Kids	2:00pm – 4:00pm
June 16	Tetrix Robotics for Kids	10:00am – 3:00pm
July 6	Microbiology for Kids	10:00am – 3:00pm
July 20	Viral Outbreak for Kids	10:00am – 2:00pm
July 27	Neuroscience for Kids	10:00am – 2:00pm

Award/Opportunity	Deadline	Information
PSTA Logo Competition	March 17	Students in all grade levels
Schuylkill Acts & Impacts	March 24	Students in grades 9 – 12
Witnessing Change Video Competition	April 1	

Science Matters Information

If someone sent you this eBlast, you can become a member of Science Matters to receive it directly! Go to: <http://pascience.org/Science-Matters.php>

Science Matters is an initiative of the Pennsylvania Science Teachers Association and the National Science Teachers Association to promote quality science education, through the sharing of information, resources, and professional development opportunities. The Pennsylvania state coordinator is Dave Bauman: davbauman@pa.gov.