



INSTRUCTIONS FOR EDUCATORS TO GET \$250 FEDERAL TAX DEDUCTION

FYI - In case you haven't heard and are planning to prepare your taxes over spring break:

The Educator Expense Deduction was reinstated by congress. However, the legislation made it into law in late December, long after the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) printed this year's official tax forms. This means that to claim the \$250 deduction for out-of-pocket classroom expenses, educators will need to follow special instructions issued by the IRS -- or to file their tax returns electronically, which the IRS recommends. Along with the deductions for educators' out-of-pocket classroom expenses, lawmakers extended tax deductions for higher education tuition and fees and state and local sales taxes. The IRS has drawn up special instructions for claiming each of the three deductions. To learn how to claim these credits, go to: <http://www.nea.org/member/educatortax.html>



The University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) is hosting a summer course for middle and high school teachers of science, geography, or technology on the new standards-based MapTEACH curriculum, focused on understanding the local landscape and learning to make computer-based maps of scientific, cultural, and personal significance. The course includes classroom studies, computer labs, and field work with local landscape experts and geologists.

MapTEACH is a culturally responsive geoscience education program for middle- and high-school students in Alaska that emphasizes hands-on experience with the geosciences and spatial technology, including GPS, GIS, and remote sensing imagery.

Participants in the course will:

- learn to use GPS receivers to navigate on the landscape;
- create unique maps with computers;
- explore local landscapes;
- practice, review, and evaluate MapTEACH curriculum lessons; and
- leave the class with useful materials.

There is a \$100 USD registration fee for the course, though organizers are seeking funding to offset these costs. Participants may earn three or four UAF credits for completing the course. Application information is available at: <http://www.mapteach.org>

MapTEACH is an NSF-funded project of UAF, the Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys, and the Environmental Remote Sensing Center at University of Wisconsin-Madison.

For further information, please contact:
Sidney Stephens Phone: 907-474-7628
E-mail: ffss1@uaf.edu

JOURNEY TO PLANET EARTH: THE STATE OF THE OCEAN'S ANIMALS

Announcing the latest episode of the PBS environmental science series JOURNEY TO PLANET EARTH: THE STATE OF THE OCEAN'S ANIMALS. This episode investigates why so many of our ocean's animals are disappearing. Case studies focus on global issues including climate change, sea-level rise, over-fishing and habitat destruction. Animals including the shark, the Emperor penguin, dolphins, sea otters and the loggerhead turtle help us to understand that our oceans are in trouble - and so are we, if we do not take action. Join host/narrator Matt Damon as he explores the fragile relationship between people and the world they inhabit. Also be sure to check out our YouTube channel, which brings you clips of past shows as well as from THE STATE OF THE OCEAN'S ANIMALS. Visit often - we're adding new clips every week.

<http://www.youtube.com/journeytoplanetearth>

To receive information about a 30-day free preview of the entire 10-episode series simply reply to this e-mail --

screenscope@screenscope.com -- with your mailing address and phone number. Or visit our website for more information about the series: <http://www.pbs.org/journeytoplanetearth>

Professional Development Travel Program to Galapagos Islands

Toyota's Institute of International Education is offering a professional development program for teachers to travel to the Galapagos Islands. Maximum Award: fully-funded, ten-day trip to the Galapagos. Eligibility: teachers grades 7-12. Deadline: April 23, 2007. <http://www.iie.org/toyota>

Earth Day Photo Contest for Middle School Students: Win a Prize by Taking a Picture of Your Changing Local Environment

Our planet is constantly changing. Look closely and you'll see changes on the land, in the water and in the air. Of all the seasons, changes are especially noticeable during spring, from blooming flowers to migrating birds to thunderstorms and tornadoes.

During the week of Earth Day (April 22), U.S. students in grades 5-8 can be part of a unique national effort to capture our changing world. Anytime from Sunday April 22 through Sunday April 29, take a photograph of something that is changing in your local environment. It could be a change occurring in your backyard, outside your school, in a local park, or off in the distance toward the horizon. Then, research and write a scientific explanation (400 words or less) that answers the following questions:

- What is the change taking place in your photograph?
- What may be causing the change?
- Was the change expected?
- How might the change impact surrounding areas, including people?
- How might this picture look different in the future?

Entries will be judged by IGES staff based on relevance to topic (depiction of change in the environment), uniqueness and overall appearance of the photo, and thoroughness of the written explanation.

The top three winners will receive cash prizes in the amount of \$100, \$75 and \$50, respectively. The top 10 winners will receive their photograph in a special frame commemorating Earth Day 2007. The top 50 photographs and accompanying descriptions will be published on the IGES Web site, www.strategies.org.

Entries must be received by email or postmarked by May 9, 2007. Winners will be announced on the IGES Web site on May 30, 2007. For submission instructions, entry form, and suggestions for using this activity in the classroom, please visit: <http://www.strategies.org/EarthDayPhoto>



2007 Teacher-to-Teacher Summer Workshops

Only three weeks until registration opens. Be sure to mark Monday, April 9, 2007, on your calendar, as the first day to sign up to participate in an exciting professional development experience free of charge. (Anchorage workshop will be August 9 & 10.) Prominent educators will discuss effective strategies for all grade levels and content areas.

You will not want to miss an opportunity to attend a Teacher-to-Teacher Workshop this upcoming summer! Check with your district about receiving professional development credit for your participation. Space is limited so don't delay. To find out about updated locations and dates for the 2007 Summer Workshops go to <https://www.t2tweb.us/workshops/schedule.asp>

Attend a one-week Flinn Scientific Foundation Summer Chemistry Workshop

and it will have a significant impact on how you teach chemistry next year! At every workshop you will see more than 100 chemical demonstrations and experiments, perform dozens of hands-on labs and receive a complete workshop manual containing all the demonstrations and labs. You'll share ideas and discuss chemistry with teachers just like yourself. Best of all, you'll learn from the best! Our workshop mentor teachers are some of the finest high school chemistry teachers in the United States.

The workshop sites and dates for summer 2007 are as follows:

June 18 – 22 Appalachian State University, Boone, NC
July 9 – 13 University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX
July 9 – 13 Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee, WI
July 9 – 13 Claremont-McKenna College, Claremont, CA
July 23 – 27 University of California, Merced, Merced, CA
July 23 – 27 Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights, KY

Visit the Flinn Web site at <http://www.flinnsci.com/scw.asp> for more information about the workshops and to download an application form to send in. In previous years, these workshops have filled up fast, so make your reservation now! If you have any questions, e-mail us at flinnfoundation@flinnsci.com or call Sharon Morales at 1-800-452-1261.

The course schedule is at the ASU website below, for Modeling Workshops and other graduate courses in summer 2007 at Arizona State University. These courses are for lifelong learning for teachers of high school physics, chemistry, physical science and math, and grade 8 science and math. They are also part of ASU's Master of Natural Science (MNS) degree program. All courses are content-intensive; and integration of physics and chemistry is emphasized. The ultimate target is not the teachers themselves but their students. Therefore each course addresses the subject at a level that prepares them to entice and inform their students.

For course descriptions and ASU application info (registering for summer courses is easy, but wait until after March 19!), visit <http://modeling.asu.edu>

NEA Foundation Student Achievement Grants

The NEA Foundation Student Achievement Grants provides funds to improve the academic achievement of students in U.S. public schools and public higher education institutions in any subject area(s). The proposed work should engage students in critical thinking and problem solving that deepen their knowledge of standards-based subject matter. The work should also improve students' habits of inquiry, self-directed learning, and critical reflection. Maximum Award: \$5,000. Eligibility: K-12 public school teachers, education support professionals, and higher education faculty and staff at public colleges and universities. Deadline: June 1, 2007.

http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/StudentAchievement_Guidelines.htm

Thanks to Elaine Miller

For sharing this cool website:

<http://www.quia.com/shared/bio/>

If you haven't seen this site before - be sure to check it out - lots of activities for a variety of science topics... some are pretty good.

March Fireside Chats at the Campbell Creek Science Center

March 21: Prescribed Fire in Alaska

Sometimes fire can be a forest manager's best friend. Come learn more about controlled burns from Kato Howard of the Alaska Fire Service. You'll find out what they are, why managers might choose to do them, the factors that go into deciding when and where to burn, the precautions taken, and more. The program begins at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday March 21, 2007 at the BLM Campbell Creek Science Center, 6865 Abbott Loop Road. Please call 267-1247 for more information.

March 29: Sea Otters of Kachemak Bay

Sea otters are important members of the marine ecosystems in which they live. But in Kachemak Bay the number of dead and dying sea otters has been rising in recent years. Come learn what scientists have unraveled so far about why the otters are disappearing from Angela Doroff, a wildlife biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The program begins at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday March 29, 2007 at the BLM Campbell Creek Science Center, 6865 Abbott Loop Road. Please call 267-1247 for more information.

ARCTIC REFLECTION: CLOUDS REPLACE SNOW AND ICE AS SOLAR REFLECTOR

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Study/ArcticReflector/>
Using satellite observations of sea ice and clouds, scientists discover that Earth's poles are still effective reflectors for incoming sunlight.

Participate in National Environmental Education Week, April 15-22, 2007

Now in its third consecutive year, National EE Week www.eeweek.org seeks to enhance the educational impact of Earth Day (April 22nd) and provide recognition to American educators that are committed to implementing environmental education in their classrooms. This year EE Week 2007 will focus on a special energy theme. Participants will have access to a wide variety of FREE environmental education resources, including:

- *A full week's worth of online environmental education preparation, curricula, and activities for K-12 classrooms, universities, nature centers, zoos, museums, and aquariums;

- *Monthly e-newsletter updates that highlight the latest EE curricula, programs, and funding opportunities;

- *The chance to apply for the Richard C. Bartlett Award for Environmental Education, which will recognize outstanding environmental education programs in both formal and non-formal settings with grants awarded to the winning organizations.

You can join National EE Week's efforts, promote environmental learning, and gain national exposure for your work by registering today at www.eeweek.org/register.htm
Questions? Please email eeweek@neetf.org.

MY NASA DATA TEACHER WORKSHOP, HAMPTON, VA, JULY 29-AUG. 3, 2007

Applications due April 30, 2007 NASA Langley Research Center will host a workshop designed for educators of grades 6-12. The workshop will focus on the implementation and use of Earth system science data sets developed for the pre-college education community as part of the MY NASA DATA program. A major component of the workshop will be the development of lessons incorporating one or more data sets. The data sets are derived from the archive of remotely-sensed data from NASA's Earth Observing System satellites. Participating teachers will explore topics in Earth system science (especially atmospheric science), educational application of data sets, and hands-on classroom activities. Participants will go on field trips and benefit from the expertise of nationally recognized atmospheric researchers. Participants will also explore how data sets can be used to enhance their curriculum and how students can utilize these data for inquiry-based learning and research. Participant feedback and curricular contributions will be enlisted as further development of data sets continues. Earth science educators are particularly encouraged to apply. For more information, visit <http://mynasadata.larc.nasa.gov/workshop.html>

NASA EOS PROJECT SPONSORS ODYSSEY OF THE MIND

For the 7th time, NASA's Earth Observing System (EOS) Project Science Office is sponsoring an Odyssey of the Mind Long Term Problem — Around the World in 8 Minutes. Millions of kids have been working hard all year perfecting their solutions to OotM problems and competing within their regions and states in order to advance to the 2007 World Finals. NASA's EOS will be exhibiting and participating in the OotM World Finals, which will be held May 23-26, 2007 at Michigan State University, and include over 14,000 participants. To learn more about Odyssey of the Mind, go to: <http://www.odysseyofthemind.com/>

NASA EDUCATOR FEATURES: GLAST TAKES ON GAMMA RAYS

Gamma rays sound like the stuff of a superhero adventure, a deadly force used by the villain to wreak havoc across the planet. Indeed, gamma rays -- a highly energetic form of radiation given off by many objects in space -- would be quite harmful to life on Earth. Fortunately, Earth's atmosphere acts as the superhero, absorbing gamma rays before they reach the ground. Scheduled for launch in fall 2007, GLAST will feature a specially designed telescope that will determine the direction and energy of incoming gamma rays. Read more about GLAST on the NASA portal at: http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/5-8/features/F_GLAST_Takes_on_Gamma_Rays.html

GRAND CHALLENGE: DIGITAL EARTH 3D VISUALIZATION CONTEST

Deadline for submission: April 1, 2007
A Digital Earth 3D Visualization contest has been launched, under sponsorship of Google, NASA, ESRI, and other technology organizations. This international contest will seek to discover the best examples of visualizing the challenging issues involved in bridging science to public understanding, policy, and action. The contest is open to all ("Any citizen or class of citizens on the planet Earth may apply"). Six winners will be flown to San Francisco, Calif. to debut their work at the 5th International Symposium on Digital Earth, June 5-9, 2007. Contest rules and entry form are available at: <http://www.isde5.org/grandchallenge>

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TEACHER WORKSHOPS

<http://www.t2tweb.us/Workshops/About.asp>
Registration opens April 8. The U.S. Department of Education has released the schedule for its summer regional workshops for teachers to learn best practices from fellow educators who have had success in raising student achievement. There are 22 different workshops scheduled across the country and each is devoted to a specific subject from science and math to history and language. There is no cost to attend. This year's co-hosts include two government agencies - NASA and the National Park Service (NPS); a number of TechNet partners including Microsoft, EMC, AMD-Spansion, Symantec, University of Nevada, and Motorola; and General Motors, and Target.

CLIMATE DISCOVERY ONLINE COURSES FOR EDUCATORS FROM NCAR

April 13-May 25, 2007

The National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) is offering a series of online courses designed for middle and high school science educators called Climate Discovery. The online courses will develop participants' competency and qualifications for integrating Earth system science, climate, and global change topics into the classroom. The first course in the series is Introduction to Earth's Climate. The six-week course is \$200. For more information and to register online, please visit <http://ecourses.ncar.ucar.edu>

CONFERENCE ON TEACHING INTRODUCTORY ASTRONOMY

Aug. 3-5, 2007, Claremont, California

Pomona College is hosting "Cosmos in the Classroom 2007," a three-day symposium on teaching astronomy to non-science majors. The meeting is sponsored by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, with co-sponsorship by the American Astronomical Society, JPL, and other astronomical and educational organizations.

The meeting is open to everyone who teaches astronomy, at university, college, high school, or informal settings. New instructors, part-time instructors, graduate students, and post docs are most welcome.

On March 1, the organizing committee will be accepting abstracts for poster papers describing innovative courses, teaching techniques, or materials and proposals for 50-minute, hands-on workshops, training participants in some particular technique, approach, or educational topic. For more information, please visit: <http://www.astrosociety.org/events/cosmos.html>.

NOAA OCEAN EXPLORER CURRICULUM NOW AVAILABLE

The 2006 edition of "Learning Ocean Science Through Ocean Exploration, A Curriculum for Grades 6-12" is now available on the NOAA Ocean Exploration Web site at:

<http://www.oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/edu/curriculum/welcome.html>

This edition has been updated with minor changes to a few of the 26 Lesson Plan activities contained within this curriculum. No substantial content changes have been made from earlier editions.

GEOLOGIC ATLAS NOW AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD

"A Photographic Atlas of Rock Breakdown Features in Geomorphic Environments" is available for free download from the Planetary Science Institute in Tucson, Ariz. Mary Bourke and Heather Viles edited the atlas with contributions from many geologists and planetary scientists. The atlas is a reference designed for teachers and students with color images and explanations. To download the atlas (15 MB), please visit:

<http://www.psi.edu/staff/bourkepubs/atlas/>

Student Summer Shipboard Opportunity

Who: Any U.S. student over 18 who is continuing their high school or college education in the next school year is eligible. This opportunity is perfect for a student who would like to experience shipboard life, research at sea, learn about ship operations, gain valuable skills, and take home good pay.

What: Positions available are General Vessel Assistants aboard NOAA ships; including work rotations in the deck, engineering, and steward departments as well as opportunities to work on scientific research. You will have the opportunity to stand watch on deck, in the engine room, and in the galley (kitchen), and work with the research gear. This is a broad introduction to life at sea and a look into oceanic research careers. For more information on vessels, qualifications, pay, and benefits, visit:

<http://www.moc.noaa.gov/shipjobs/NoaaWmlInfoPkg.pdf>

Where: Voyage to the North Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf of Mexico—wherever the NOAA ship is conducting its tour of duty. Travel to the ship will be provided.

When: June to August

Salary: Pay will start at the Basic level for General Vessel Assistants, rated at \$29,000 yearly for a 40-hour workweek, with additional overtime pay and room and board.

Application Information: For more information, visit www.shipjobs.noaa.gov and search for General Vessel Assistant. Students do not need to fill out the application on line; just provide proof that you are a student, a resume, and a letter describing your interest in working on a NOAA ship for the summer. Submit your letter of interest, resume, and proof of student status (a letter from your high school or the college you will be attending in the 2007-2008 school year) by May 1, 2007. Student Vessel Assistants will be selected by May 15, 2007.

Physicals, provided by NOAA Corps in Norfolk, Virginia, are required to complete the application process. Free physical examinations are required by NOAA Corps in Norfolk, Virginia, to complete the selection process.

For more information:

Nadine Bloch, Education Specialist, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, 301-563-7102 or Nadine.Bloch@noaa.gov

Commander Phil Gruccio, NOAA Corps Atlantic Marine Operations Center, 757-441-6842 or Phil.Gruccio@noaa.gov

"Why would I want my doctor to have studied evolution?"

The Alliance for Science, a 501c(3) registered non-profit organization, is sponsoring a national high school essay contest that would be of particular interest to high school biology students and their teachers. The topic of this year's essay is the above question. There are cash prizes for students and valuable incentives for teachers of winning students.

Please be aware that the deadline for submissions is March 31st, 2007. General information about the Alliance for Science and its mission can be obtained from <http://www.allianceforscience.org/essay>

Global Warming - NBC Meteorologist Bob Ryan Interviews Dr. Ralph Cicerone

Meteorologist Bob Ryan and Dr. Ralph Cicerone, President of the National Academy of Sciences, discuss global warming. Watch the interview and read more at: http://science.nsta.org/nstaexpress/nstaexpress_2007_03_05_interview.htm.

NASA Space Pennant Design Challenge

Capture the imagination of your students as NASA prepares for the historic first spaceflight of an Educator Astronaut, Barbara Morgan. Spark the curiosity, creativity and imagination of your students with the NASA Space Pennant Design Challenge. Participating students will create a design, conduct research and write an essay about the design's connection to exploration. Six finalists will be announced and one overall winner will be selected through online voting at KOL, AOL's service for kids. The winning design will be flown aboard Space Shuttle Endeavour during the STS-118 mission. The contest begins on March 15, 2007, and entries are due by April 10, 2007. Online voting will take place May 3-17, 2007. For more information, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/5-8/features/>

NASA Quest HiRISE Image Targeting Challenge

Help NASA on the quest for signs of water on the Red Planet. The High Resolution Imaging Science Experiment camera, now orbiting Mars, is helping NASA search for signs of water on Mars. Students are invited to help choose regions of Mars for HiRISE to image. The HiRISE team will pick several suggestions and image them with the camera in the coming months. The winning team will represent the first people on Earth to see the resulting image and will have the chance to search for signs of water in the image.

Background information, teacher guides, student activity books and tutorials are available online to help students choose a region. Interested teachers and students are encouraged to log on to a training webcast taking place on March 21, 2007.

Challenge entries are due April 7, 2007. For more information, visit: <http://quest.nasa.gov/challenges/hirise/>