



Public Interest Center | P.O. Box 1049 | Columbus, OH | 43216-1049

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MEDIA CONTACT: Dina Pierce, (614) 644-2160
CITIZEN CONTACT: Darla Peelle, (614) 644-2160

Ohio EPA Awards \$4,999 Environmental Education Mini Grant to Black Swamp Bird Observatory

Birds of different feathers will flock together at the Black Swamp Bird Observatory for a unique nature program for 2,500 students from 21 northern Ohio counties.

The Black Swamp Bird Observatory program has been awarded a \$4,999 Ohio Environmental Education Fund mini grant for its "Wetland Investigation Network (WIN)" program. Eleven projects throughout the state were funded for \$50,000.

The organization will bring students together for a day-long series on wetland ecology, songbird migration and the importance of habitat conservation. Students will learn to use field guides, field marks and scientific procedures for species identification. The program will include mist netting and banding of wild songbirds.

Students also will explore careers in wildlife management, conservation, nature travel and tourism and visit the Magee Marsh Wildlife Area and the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. There also is a Spanish-language component for 300 Latino students from migrant schools.

The Ohio Environmental Education Fund gives out approximately \$1 million each year for environmental education projects targeting kindergarten through university students, the general public and the regulated community. General grants are given for projects lasting up to 30 months and costing up to \$50,000.

Mini grants are available for projects lasting up to 12 months and costing between \$500 and \$5,000. Proposals for classroom projects, conference speakers, and other activities that are eligible under the general grant program are eligible under the mini-grant program, but the application process is streamlined. Ohio EPA's Office of Environmental Education reserves up to \$50,000 each grant round to fund projects submitted under this program. Just like the general grant program, there are two mini-grant rounds each year, with the next application deadline on July 15, 2011. An electronic letter of intent to apply is due on July 8.

For more information, contact Ohio EPA's Office of Environmental Education at (614) 644-2873. Staff is available to assist potential grant applicants who contact the office before the submission deadline. Information also is available [online](#).

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