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Ohio EPA Awards \$2,867 Environmental Education Mini Grant to Benefit Scioto County Students

Ohio EPA has awarded a \$2,867 environmental education mini grant to Minford Middle School to help students learn about water quality and explore careers in water treatment and monitoring. Eleven projects throughout the state were funded for \$50,000.

This grant provides students with equipment to sample water chemistry monthly and kick-seine to collect macro-invertebrates as biological indicators of water quality at four sites along the Little Scioto River. Students will learn testing procedures from activities in the [Project WET](#) and [Healthy Water, Healthy People](#) curricula. The grant also helps with bus transportation costs, as the project includes field trips to the Lucasville Water Treatment Plant and the United States Enrichment Corporation facility in Piketon; at the latter location, the former Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant site, students will be able to observe and better understand water quality monitoring. Collaborators on the project include the Scioto County Farm Bureau and the Scioto Soil and Water Conservation District.

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](#).