



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

FOR RELEASE: May 18, 2011
MEDIA CONTACT: Mike Settles, (614) 644-2160
CITIZEN CONTACT: Kristopher Weiss, (614) 644-2160

Ohio EPA Awards Environmental Education Mini Grant for Sandy Valley High School Water Quality Studies

Sandy Valley High School received a \$5,000 Ohio EPA environmental education mini grant so students may study water quality in the local watershed and Lake Erie. The school's proposal to expand hands-on science studies was one of 11 projects to be awarded Ohio EPA environmental education mini grants totaling \$50,000.

The grant will allow the high school to provide transportation, instruction and the equipment students need to study the Huff Run watershed. Students will collect macro-invertebrates, sample for a variety of water quality parameters and examine whether development, mining and agriculture have impacted the watershed. The grant also will fund a two-day field trip to Ohio State University's Stone Laboratory in Ottawa County, where the school's science club and Envirothon team will study the Lake Erie aquatic ecosystem.

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 by 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](#).

-30-

www.epa.ohio.gov