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Ohio EPA Awards \$49,853 Environmental Education Grant to Hamilton County Organization

Ohio EPA has awarded a \$49,853 Environmental Education Fund grant to ThinkTV – Public Media Connect for its program: Growing Up Wild in the Outdoor Classroom. Nine grants were awarded statewide for a total of \$300,000.

Three public television stations will train 840 child care providers and parents in central and southwest Ohio to use the outdoors as a classroom for teaching young children about nature and science. Half-day workshops will present eight units from Project WILD’s “Growing Up WILD” curriculum, reinforced with a monthly e-newsletter with enrichment ideas for all attendees. Activities include: What’s Wild, Tracks, Bird Beak Buffet, Seed Need, Spider Web Wonders, The Deep Blue Sea, Wiggling Worms and Wildlife is Everywhere. Multiple collaborators include the CET and WOSU Public Media stations, Dayton Area Family Child Care Association, Ohio Job and Family Services agencies in 16 counties, OSU Extension and referral agencies in five other counties.

The Ohio Environmental Education Fund is administered by Ohio EPA. Grants up to \$50,000 are funded from one-half of the civil penalties collected by the Agency for air and water pollution control violations. Eligible grant recipients include environmental groups, public and private schools, colleges and universities, trade or professional organizations, businesses and state and local governments. Approximately \$1 million is given each year.

The next OEEF application deadline is on July 15, 2011. An electronic letter of intent to apply is due on July 8. For additional information, contact the Ohio Environmental Education Fund at (614) 644-2873 or visit its website at www.epa.ohio.gov/oeef/.

Editor’s Note: Participating Central and Southwestern counties include: Adams, Butler, Clermont, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Greene, Hamilton, Highland, Lawrence, Montgomery, Pickaway, Preble, Ross, Shelby and Warren; Clark, Delaware, Licking Miami and Scioto are collaborating.

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