



SWEP promotes environmental stewardship by connecting students to their community and local environment through comprehensive watershed education and service learning

Eric McKee
2008 Americorps member

Eric McKee recently moved to the Lake Tahoe area from southern Connecticut. Eric graduated in 2007 with a Bachelor of Science in Natural/Recreation Resource Management from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, NY.

He has worked extensively with youth and education programs throughout Connecticut and completed a semester long course in outdoor education with the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) of Lander, WY.

More recently Eric served as an instructor with the Orange County Outdoor Science School and as a whitewater river guide in Denali, AK. He has achieved certifications in Swiftwater Rescue, Wilderness First Responder, Recreational Avalanche, Certified Interpretive Guide, and Leave No Trace.

Eric has already gotten the Winter Ecology program going and will be organizing the Youth Symposium.



Welcome Eric!

Winter 2008

Program Highlights

SWEP Gains New Board Members

A call for new board members in October, gained the interest of several volunteers. Dan Allison, Diane Malven-Pang, Tamara Anderson and John Pang have joined the SWEP board of directors. For 2008 the board will focus on employee policies, capacity building and outreach.



Students building a quinzee at the Rideout program

3rd Annual Youth Service Symposium scheduled May 16

This year's Youth Service Symposium will be held at North Tahoe Middle School. Applications for project presentations will be available March 3. SWEP is seeking community partners interested in participating in the 'Career Exploration' at the symposium. Info: Eric McKee

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Winter Ecology Programs in Full Swing

Our winter ecology [pilot] program is in full swing. Educational demonstrations and interactive activities were met with support and enthusiasm by participants at the Rideout after school program and the Tahoe XC Center.

SWEP recognizes the importance of expanding its curriculum and is excited to include this vital and magical part of our ecosystem.

Info: Eric McKee ejmckee@syr.edu

Service Learning Class Takes on Defensible Space and Water Quality

Pat Hamilton, teacher at North Tahoe MS, has been a service learning advocate for many years, attending workshops and engaging students in the youth symposium. This year, she has started a class in which students participate in service learning projects! SWEP is working with NT Fire, State Parks and others to present critical issues on the topics of defensible space and water quality. Students are beginning their investigation into these issues as they pertain to their school site. NTFD has plans to work with partners to treat the forest around the school site in the near future. Look for student opinions and presentations on the topic this spring!

Teach Tahoe!

Looking for place-based curriculum? Teach Tahoe was created in 2005 to aide educators in teaching about environmental issues facing Lake Tahoe and the surrounding

* The only way of finding *
* the limits of the possible *
* is by going beyond them *
* into the impossible. *
* Arthur C. Clarke *

watersheds. The curriculum consists of edited video segments taken from the Lake Tahoe Report (aired on KOLO TV, 2003) and standards based activities intended to supplement existing classroom curriculum. The topics covered are watersheds/water quality, erosion, native plants and fire/defensible space. Currently there are units designed for upper elementary and high school. A Middle School curriculum is being developed currently. See www.4swep.org for more info.



Nicole Deas Chosen as Interim Project Director

Nicole Deas will temporarily fill the shoes of long time project director, Jan Ellis, who is taking a leave of absence to teach 2nd grade.

During her tenure as SWEP's 2008 Americorps member, Nicole gained experience working with teachers, students and community partners on projects throughout our region. She will be heading up the Community Wetlands Education events, summer programs and Sagehen activities.

Forestry Institute for Teachers

The Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT) is a multi-day residence workshop held at 4 northern California locations.

"The goal of FIT is to provide K-12 teachers with knowledge, skills and tools to effectively teach their students about forest ecology and forest resource management practices" (www.forestryinstitute.org).

All meals and lodging are free. Teachers are provided with extensive classroom and curriculum materials, and a \$200 stipend on completion and implementation of a forest related curriculum unit or project conducted in their classrooms.



Water, Wetlands and Waterfowl Educator Workshop!

Wetlands provide tremendous benefit to our environment, economy and well being. They are also powerful places in which to learn. This workshop, hosted by Sierra Watershed Education Partnerships (SWEP) and the Tahoe Environmental Research Center (TERC), is sponsored and paid for, in part by Project WET and Ducks Unlimited to help educators learn skills and methods for teaching about water, wetlands and waterfowl.

You will participate in fun, hands-on activities from the Project Webfoot Educators Kit and the *Wonders of Wetlands (WOW!) Curriculum and Activity Guide*. You will walk away prepared to present activities to students and the public. Come prepared for both indoor and outdoor settings. Lunch and materials are provided.

Date: Saturday, March 29, 2008

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Cost: \$10 for lunch and materials

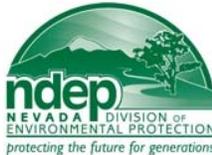
Location: Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences (TCES), 291 Country Club Dr. Incline Village, NV 89451

Materials: Participants will receive a *Project Webfoot Educators Kit*, a *WOW! Curriculum and Activity Guide* and much more!

To Register: Find registration form, payment information, agenda and directions to the TCES on-line at: www.4swep.org or contact Christine McMorrow, christine@4swep.org or by phone, 530-525-9457.

NV Department of Education In-service Credit Offered (0.5 credit for one day)

Sponsored by:



Dates to Remember

February 25: 3:30-5:30pm TTREC meeting NTMS

March 3-5: California Service Learning Conference, San Jose

March 5: 3-7pm Science Expo @t the TCES

March 29: 9am-4:30pm Project Webfoot Educator Workshop; TCES, Incline Village

April 10: 9am-4pm Environmental Education Symposium; TCES Incline Village

April 26: 10am-5pm, Earth Day, Squaw Valley

May 16: 10am-1pm 3rd annual Youth Service Symposium

June 3: 5pm Tahoe Gal Fun'raiser

June 9: Community Wetlands Education Day, Polaris Creek



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