



*Cooperative Extension Supports Youth
Environmental Stewardship*

Promotional Article

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CES YES: Put the energy of youth to work for the environment

Youth can make a big difference by becoming environmental stewards in their own communities. They have an inborn curiosity about science and nature. And most young people are eager to help protect natural resources.

Sometimes all it takes to unleash their ideas and energy to preserve and improve the environment is a little encouragement from adults around them.

That's the message of a national environmental education project launched at the University of Wisconsin-Extension, with support from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It's called "CES YES", which stands for Cooperative Extension Supports Youth Environmental Stewardship. A set of short publications and a website are packed with ideas for environmental actions that youth can do. These activities include a lot of hands-on learning and opportunities for service to the community and the environment.

"There are already many wonderful Wisconsin youth stewardship initiatives sponsored by 4-H, Scouts and others," said Elaine Andrews, an environmental education specialist at the UW-Extension Environmental Resources Center.

"We began the CES YES initiative because youth educators were asking the Environmental Resources Center for more information and resources. The CES YES website is our response. Experts and partners helped us to organize information to make it easier for leaders to find activities, ideas, and potential partners for environmental stewardship activities for youth."

What kinds of things can youth do? The CES YES people list many options.
For example:

- Go on a field trip to study habitats and ecosystems
- Visit a landfill
- Get involved in wetlands restoration
- Collect bugs to check water quality in a local stream
- Clean up a local park
- Plant a tree
- Make a butterfly garden

CES YES can help 4-H leaders, educators, and other adults who work with youth, develop educational and effective projects to get kids involved in environmental stewardship. The website links to a wealth of materials and resources from 4-H, Cooperative Extension, federal agencies and environmental organizations.

For more information, you can visit the website at <http://cesyes.net>, or contact your county Extension office.