



November Science News and Info



Your NASA Dream Experience

A nationwide contest as seen in *Seventeen Magazine* is open for applicants until midnight December 15, 2008. A team of two students (ages 16-20) and an educator/sponsor will earn the opportunity to spend three days at either Johnson Space Center or Kennedy Space Center on a job shadow and behind the scenes experience during the spring of 2009. Contest details for *Your NASA Dream Experience* are detailed at <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/johnson/education/seventeen.html>.

Free Virtual Field Trips Bring the World into Any Classroom

When virtual field trips began, most of these journeys were unimpressive, but recent technology has allowed the development of extraordinary, free adventures.

Below are some free, effective virtual field trips that can be used in the classroom:

- **Blue Zones Quest** (<http://www.quest.bluezones.com/home>) encourages healthy behaviors through scientific exploration of cultural practices.
- **GoNorth!** (<http://www.polarhusky.com>) brings students to the North Pole via dogsled.
- **Windows into Wonderland**, sponsored by the National Park Services (<http://www.windowsintowonderland.org>), explores the geysers and hot springs of Yellowstone National Park.
- **National Geographic: Lewis & Clark** (<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/lewisandclark>) traces the famous explorers' path from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean.
- National Museum of Natural History's short but impeccably rendered **Virtual Dinosaur Dig** (<http://www.paleobiology.si.edu/dinosaurs>) demonstrates how to unearth buried bones. One can peek at some cool three-dimensional images of real fossils by taking the accompanying Virtual Museum Tour.
- The University of Delaware's **Mission to the Abyss** (<http://www.ocean.udel.edu/extreme2002>) does for undersea hydrothermal vents what *GoNorth!* does for the Arctic. Although the site's more interactive features are long discontinued, there is still plenty of "freaky" deep-sea fun to be had while learning about the creepy creatures of the ocean floor.
- **On-Line Expeditions** (<http://www.ocean.udel.edu/expeditions/index.html>), a Web page for the university's College of Marine Studies, features links to *Mission to the Abyss* and similar adventures.

Be sure to preview the fieldtrips and plan for implementation prior to accessing them in class. To learn how to make the most of virtual field trips, visit <http://www.edutopia.org/virtual-field-trips-tips>.



November Science News and Info



H-2-O: A Water Quality Workshop for Teachers

From H-2-O: A Water Quality Workshop for Teachers has been rescheduled. The new dates for the workshop are **January 23-25, 2009**. **Application deadline** for the workshop is **December 17, 2008**. Any teacher wanting to learn more about the water quality issues and how to start a water quality monitoring program using LUMCON's Bayouside Classroom at school should attend this workshop. Every teacher who attends will receive free water sampling equipment, along with free lodging and meals during the workshop, and much more. The hands-on experience of the Bayouside Classroom program enables students to answer questions about the environment, scientifically using real data they help collect. To learn more about LUMCON's Bayouside Classroom, visit the website www.lumcon.edu/bayousideclassroom. To get an application or more information about the workshop, contact Murt Conover at (985) 851-2860 or mconover@lumcon.edu.

National Environmental Education Week

Fall is a perfect time to get students outdoors to explore the natural world. In celebration of EE Week 2009's theme *Be Water Wise!*, a new series of water-themed Nature Journaling Blogs have been developed in partnership with the Roger Tory Peterson Institute. The blogs provide educators with ideas for incorporating nature journaling into the curriculum. They can be found by visiting www.eeweek.org/nature_journal.

National EE Week that will be held **April 12-18, 2009**. Register your school or organization online today at www.eeweek.org/register. Certificates will be provided to recognize registered partners and students, and partners will have an opportunity to request a free copy of National Geographic Explorer magazine during the registration process. Register now! If you have already registered, information on how to obtain your certificate and magazine will be sent to you by email.

K-12: Einstein Fellowship - Application Now Open!

Application Due: January 13, 2009

Are you an experienced educator who is ready to make a difference on a national scale? If so, consider applying for an Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship and prepare for a year of unique opportunities on a paid fellowship with other K-12 math, science, and technology teachers. As an Einstein Fellow, you will spend a school year in Washington, DC, sharing your expertise with policy makers. You may serve your Fellowship with Congress or with one of several government agencies, such as the Department of Energy, NASA, the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

For more information about the Einstein Fellows program visit <http://www.trianglecoalition.org/ein.htm> or contact Liz Burck at burckl@triangle-coalition.org. For application information, visit: <https://applicationlink.labworks.org/applicationlink/default.htm>



November Science News and Info



Frontiers in Physiology Program

Middle and high school science teachers are invited to apply for a year-long \$9,000 professional development fellowship in the Frontiers in Physiology Program *Six Star Science for Student-Centered Learning*, sponsored by the American Physiological Society (APS). Six Star Science principles support excellence in education: (1) student-centered instruction, (2) diversity/equity, (3) technology, (4) assessment, (5) current scientific content, and (6) reflecting on teaching and learning.

From **April 2009 to April 2010**, teacher fellows intensively examine their current teaching methods and learning environments, as well as deepen their understanding of standards by developing and enhancing Six Star Science classroom materials. During the summer of 2009, teacher fellows partner with a local APS member scientist, immersing themselves in the world of cutting-edge biomedical research for 7-8 weeks. Fellows also participate in a week-long professional development workshop, the **Science Teaching Forum (July 2009)**. The fellowship concludes with a trip to a scientific conference in Anaheim, California.

Awardees receive: Consulting payments of up to **\$9,000**, travel costs, and a mini-grant for classroom materials. For more information, go to: www.frontiersinphys.org. **Application deadline: January 8, 2009.**

2009 TOSHIBA/NSTA EXPLORAVISION AWARDS

The Toshiba/National Science Teachers Association ExploraVision Awards Program is now accepting entries for its 2009 competition. An increasing number of state and federal policymakers and educators recognize the importance of "STEM," or science, technology, engineering, and math education, as a way to ensure a vibrant future economy in a world that requires more technically sophisticated skills. ExploraVision stands out as one of the nation's leading education programs that promote student interest in science and technological innovation. The program has become very popular as a learning and motivational tool that many teachers use it as part of their science and technology curriculum. **The deadline for the 2009 competition is January 28, 2009.**

In the 2008 competition, winning teams proposed future technologies that ranged from renewable alternatives to petroleum-based plastics to a device that could remove carbon dioxide from car exhaust. For their projects, student teams in 2008 researched existing technologies to conceptualize future advancements in the fields of nanotechnology, bio-plastics, genetic engineering, GPS satellite systems, and more. Up to \$240,000 in savings bonds will be awarded this year to student winners whose innovative ideas combine imagination with the tools of science. Toshiba laptop computers for schools and other prizes for students, teachers, and mentors will also be presented. For more information or an application for 2009, visit www.exploravision.org.