








Environmental Science Education Team

The Environmental Science Education team helps Minnesotans explore, understand and conserve their natural environment. Through our research-based programs and products, we work with educators and volunteers to support quality environmental service and teaching about the environment.

Core programs of the Environmental Science Education team:

-  **Best Practices for Field Days**
<http://www.extension.umn.edu/FieldDays/>
Field days are community events that bring together professionals, volunteers and teachers with school children for a day of learning about their environment. They happen indoors or out, for any number of students, for any age group. An extensive research-based guidebook, customized workshops, and other tools assist in designing and evaluating field days using best practices.
-  **Driven to Discover: Enabling authentic inquiry through citizen science**
<http://www.extension.umn.edu/projects/nre/CitizenScience/>
A program that trains 4-H and other volunteer youth group leaders in the background knowledge and methods needed to lead youth in conducting citizen science projects and then to develop their own ecology research projects.
-  **Minnesota Master Naturalist**
<http://www.extension.umn.edu/masternaturalist/>
The mission of the Minnesota Master Naturalist program is to promote awareness, understanding, and stewardship of Minnesota's natural environment by developing a corps of well-informed citizens dedicated to conservation education and service within their communities. Students participate in 40 hours of classroom instruction covering the basics of ecology for one of Minnesota's biomes, then complete a capstone project. Upon graduation, Master Naturalist Volunteers conduct 40 hours of volunteer service each year to remain active in the program.
-  **Monarchs in the Classroom**
<http://www.monarchlab.org>
Monarchs in the Classroom promotes and facilitate inquiry-based education through original curricula and research opportunities. The program uses monarchs and other insects as focal organisms in inquiry-based teacher workshops and conducts an annual Insect Fair to spotlight student research. The Monarch Larva Monitoring Project provides teachers, students, and other interested citizens an opportunity to be involved with nationwide research on monarch populations.
-  **Nature-Engaged Families**
Through a unique partnership between the Environmental Science Education team and Extension's experts in Family Relations and Youth Development, we help families build connections with nature for the benefit of individual well-being and family cohesiveness.
-  **Schoolyard Ecology Explorations**
<http://www.monarchlab.org>
Through summer workshops, curriculum and schoolyard garden grants, teachers gain the skills and the tools to lead their student to investigate the natural world. These workshops increase student and teacher expertise in ecological research, natural history and sustainability.
-  **White Earth Reservation Academy**
<http://www.extension.umn.edu/WhiteEarth/>
Fun activities, such as using GPS receivers to find hidden food caches and learn about wildlife, help students improve math and science performance, reduce dropout rates, and prepare for careers—while honoring traditional practices and values.



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For information about any of our programs, please visit our website:
<http://www.extension.umn.edu/EnvironEd/>