A Forest for Every Classroom

What is A Forest For Every Classroom?
A Forest for Every Classroom (FFEC) is a year-long professional development series for middle and high school educators, aimed at providing the inspiration, knowledge, and skills required to transform classroom teaching into effective and exciting place-based education. At the heart of the FFEC program is the belief that students who are immersed in the interdisciplinary study of their own place are more eager to learn and be involved in the stewardship of their natural and human communities.

What is place-based education?
Place-based education is the process of using the local community and environment as a starting point to teach concepts in science, mathematics, reading, social studies, and other subjects across the curriculum. Emphasizing hands-on, real world learning experiences, this approach to education increases academic achievement, helps students develop stronger ties to their community, enhances student appreciation for the natural world, and creates a heightened commitment to serving as active contributing citizens. (David Sobel, Standing Strong in My Rightful Place, 2003) Place-based education research has shown that students who are engaged in real-world learning within their local communities have higher literacy rates and are more likely to succeed than those who learn through a traditional textbook approach. A study by the State Education and Environment Roundtable demonstrated that when the environment is used as an integrating context, students earn higher grades and score better on standardized reading, writing and math examinations.

Dates and Locations

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<th>Session</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Session</td>
<td>Army Lake Camp, East Troy</td>
<td>August 12-16, Monday-Friday</td>
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<td>Fall Session</td>
<td>Location TBD, October</td>
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<td>Winter Session</td>
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<td>Spring Session</td>
<td>Location TBD April</td>
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To register go to: www.leafprogram.org

The deadline to register is April 26, 2013.

For more information contact Sarah Gilbert at (715) 346-4924 ~or~ Sarah.Gilbert@uwsp.edu
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What will be expected of the participants?

Participants are encouraged to come as part of a school team. The recommended team composition is three teachers, one administrator, and one community member. Each team will develop a service learning project that brings the school and the community together, where teachers and students learn about local forestry issues and pertinent forest research, and become involved in a viable community-based project. The workshop series begins with a five-day experience at Army Lake Camp in East Troy on August 12-16, 2013. We'll meet again in the fall, winter, and spring, each time for two days. Locations will vary but all will be in the south and southeastern part of Wisconsin. Teacher participants will be expected to attend all eleven days. Administrator and community member participants will be asked to attend two days during the August session and for the final spring meeting.

What is the cost?

Thanks to our wonderful partners, the registration fee for this unique, year-long experience is just $350 per person for teachers and $50 per person for administrators and community members (who will only attend specific portions of the workshop series).

For the teachers, this includes:

- eleven days of professional development
- two graduate credits from UWSP
- extensive curriculum materials
- accommodations
- great food
- implementation grant up to $200
- and much more.

The value of the package is over $3500 per teacher (over $10,750 per district)!

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