



SERT Spotlight

MARCH 2018



NEARLY FIVE DECADES AGO, the first [Earth Day](#) celebration was held. Since then, people around the world focus attention on the planet's environment by holding activities on or around April 22 to raise public awareness about the negative effects pollution has on Mother Earth.

The idea for Earth Day was proposed by Senator [Gaylord Nelson](#) who had witnessed the damage caused by a massive [oil spill](#) in 1969. Nelson was inspired by student involvement in the anti-Vietnam War movement and realized that if that same energy were focused on the environment, change would take place. In 1970, his staff organized a national "teach-in" that focused on educating the public about the environment. They were able to convince 20 million people across the United States to participate in protests, rallies, and other public events on April 22, 1970 to raise awareness about the environment and find ways to protect the planet. By 1990, the event had gone global with 200 million people in 141 countries participating.

Through the years, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has shown its commitment to protecting the earth by making intentional, environmentally-friendly [decisions](#) in the areas of building construction and maintenance, resource conservation, transportation, materials and waste cycles, and information technology. MCPS continues to be a leader in green and healthy-schools initiatives and integrates environmental literacy into the curriculum

at all grade levels. Those who support Earth Day understand that awareness and education are foundations for progress. This is why [we promote Earth Day](#)-related activities within MCPS.

Some schools will hold special assemblies or have school spirit weeks that focus on the event. Other schools host community cleanup activities, plant trees, or work in community gardens. These actions not only help us make our earth a better place to live, but also teach our students to be responsible environmental stewards and future leaders.

How will your school celebrate Earth Day? Email SERT@mcpsmd.org and let us know your plans!





Audubon Naturalist Society

Professional Development for Teachers

APRIL



Project WILD is a wildlife-focused conservation education program for K-12 educators and their students. It is based on the premise that young people and educators have a vital interest in learning about our natural world. Emphasizing wildlife because of its intrinsic value, Project WILD addresses the need for human beings to develop as responsible citizens of our planet. From the tiny minnow to the majestic grizzly, wildlife and humans are integrally connected. Project WILD links students and wildlife by providing wildlife-based conservation and environmental education that fosters responsible actions toward wildlife and related natural resources. Through the use of balanced curriculum materials and professional training workshops, Project WILD accomplishes its goal of developing awareness, knowledge, skills, and commitment. Attendees receive the Project Wild Curriculum and Activity Guide, an online portal code, and certificate of completion.

Date: April 28, 2018
 Time: 9 a.m.– 3:30 p.m.
 Price: \$25 per teacher
 Valid for ½ MSDE credit

MAY



Water Education for Teachers

During the **Project WET** workshop, educators learn how to incorporate local issues into the lessons. After completion of the training, educators are given a free Project WET curriculum and activity guide packed with 91 hands-on activities that cross many disciplines in the study of water and water resources – chemistry and physics, life science, earth systems, natural resource management, history and culture. All attendees will receive the Project WET Curriculum and Activity Guide 2.0, an online portal code, and certificate of completion.

Date: May 26, 2018
 Time: 9 a.m.– 3:30 p.m.
 Price: \$25 per teacher
 Valid for ½ MSDE credit

Workshops are held at the Audubon Naturalist Society's headquarters.

Woodend Nature Sanctuary
 8940 Jones Mill Road
 Chevy Chase, Maryland 208915

JUNE



Project Learning Tree® is an environmental education program that provides educators working with students in pre-K through Grade 12 with multi-disciplinary instructional materials, professional development, and other resources to help youth gain awareness and knowledge of the natural and built environment, their place within it, as well as their responsibility for it. Integrate environmental and sustainability education into teaching and become comfortable teaching outdoors—in urban, suburban, and rural environments. Attendees receive the Project Learning Tree Curriculum and Activity Guide 2.0, an online portal code, and certificate of completion.

Date: June 9, 2018
 Time: 9 a.m.– 3:30 p.m.
 Price: \$45 per teacher
 Valid for ½ MSDE credit

To register, call 301-652-9188 extension 11 or send an email to Serenella.Linares@anshome.org.

Turn the lights off for one hour and make a difference!

Earth Hour
 Saturday, March 24 8:30-9:30 p.m.

Have a wonderful
SPRING BREAK

But first, please do your ENERGY SHUT DOWN!

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Entries are due
 Tuesday, April 3, 2018

Watts Up?

Entries are due Tuesday, April 17.
 MCPS staff will be able to judge online. Watch for details!

SERT Spotlight

This newsletter is produced by the School Energy and Recycling Team (SERT) program and distributed to SERT leaders, school-based SERT teams, building service personnel, and others who are interested in conservation and sustainability. As part of the [Montgomery County Public Schools](#) Department of Facilities Management, the SERT program provides opportunities for all schools to participate and receive incentives and recognition for their energy conservation and recycling efforts. We support a balanced environment for the integration of all students to work together in a culturally diverse environment, and strive to provide the resources, support, and vision of the future for a successful conservation program at each school. Promoting the connections between human behavior and its impact on the environment reinforces our culture of conservation and increases participation in our mission to conserve resources and recycle actively.



SERT PROGRAM

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