

E-blast #2 February 2011

For information on each of the following educational offers and resources please visit the LSTA website at: <http://www.lsta.info>. Select the E-Blast button from the menu on the home page and then click on the February #2 link.

1. Simulation-Based Aerospace Engineering Teacher Program; Deadline March 7
2. Disney Friends for Change Grants; Deadline: March 10
3. Teaching from Space to Defy Gravity Application Deadline March 14
4. Endangered Species Day Art Contest; Deadline March 15
5. Sun-Earth Day 2011: Ancient Mysteries: Future Discoveries March 20
6. Deep Horizon Oil Spill - The True Role of Microbes March 23
7. Gr 9-12 Science Technology Grant for Agriculture in the Classroom March 31
8. The Aquarium of the America's webinar program *Coast to Classroom*
9. Christa McAuliffe: Reach for the Stars - Free DVD offer
10. Google Science Fair – Ages 13-18 Deadline April 4
11. Student Art & Language Arts Contest: Deadline APRIL 21

1. 2011 Simulation-Based Aerospace Engineering Teacher P D Program
Applications are currently available for the 2011 Simulation-Based Aerospace Engineering Teacher Professional Development Program. This program will provide 32 select middle and high school STEM teachers the opportunity to attend a two-week, paid internship-based workshop at a NASA facility.

During the workshop, teachers will attend presentations by NASA engineers and education specialists, tour NASA facilities and work side-by-side with mentors. At the conclusion of the workshop teachers will have developed an innovative modeling and simulation lesson plan relevant to the mentor's research area that they will be able to use in their classrooms and share with other educators across the nation.

Applications are due March 7, 2011. For more information about this opportunity and to download the application materials, visit:

<https://simaero.rti.org>

2. Disney Friends for Change Grants (Deadline: March 10)
YSA (Youth Service America), together with Disney, is now accepting applications from youth around the world for the Disney Friends for Change Grants. The grant funds youth-led service projects that focus on making environmentally friendly changes and engage youth on [Global Youth Service Day](#), April 15-17. The Disney Friends for Change program will award 50 \$500 grants to youth-led service projects around the world that demonstrate youth leadership, creativity, and the commitment to making a positive impact on the environment. Applicants must be between the ages of 5-25 and be associated with a school or organization. Applications are due March 10. Learn more at www.YSA.org/grants/disney-friends-change-grants

3. Teaching from Space Seeks Educators to Defy Gravity

Teaching from Space, a NASA Education office, in partnership with the Reduced Gravity Education Flight Program announces the opportunity for educators across the country to conduct research in a unique reduced-gravity environment. For the first time, this incredible opportunity is open to any current K-12 classroom teacher in the United States. Participants must also be U.S. citizens.

This experience will enable selected educator teams to propose, design and fabricate a reduced-gravity experiment and subsequently test and evaluate their experiment aboard a microgravity aircraft. This aircraft flies approximately 30 roller-coaster-like climbs and dips to produce periods of micro- and hyper-gravity, ranging from 0 g's to 2 g's.

Educator teams interested in testing an experiment in this unique environment need to submit a proposal no later than March 14, 2011. For more information, check out:

<http://microgravityuniversity.jsc.nasa.gov/tfs>
or send an e-mail to jsc-rgeducator@nasa.gov

4. The deadline for entry in the Endangered Species Day Art Contest is March 15, 2011. More information is in the attached flyer and can also be found at:

www.endangeredspeciesday.org

The grand prize winner will receive a round-trip flight to Washington, D.C. for him/herself and one guardian to attend a reception in May. Accommodations will also be provided. (Prize is not redeemable for cash.) All other expenses are the responsibility of the winner. In addition, the grand prize winner will receive a gift certificate for art supplies.

The four grade category winners will receive a special plaque and a gift certificate for art supplies. In addition, the winning artists' teachers or youth group leaders will receive gift certificates for classroom art supplies.

All contest entrants will receive a Certificate of Participation (available on Endangered Species Day Website for teachers/youth leaders/parents to download).

The 6th Annual Endangered Species Day is May 20, 2011. Check out

www.endangeredspeciesday.org for information on events in your area or to receive a tool-kit to host your own Endangered Species Day Event! The schedule will be updated as event hosts register, so check back often.

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5. Sun-Earth Day 2011: Ancient Mysteries: Future Discoveries (March 20)

Sun-Earth Day is a combination of events and programs that occur through the year, ending with a grand Sun-Earth Day celebration on or near the Spring Equinox in March. This year's theme will be "Ancient Mysteries: Future Discoveries," and will focus on examining early civilizations who created structures containing solstice and equinox alignments, as well as exploring how humankind continues to observe the Sun from the ground and space. Many resources will be available for Sun-Earth Day participation, including video and webcast programming (created by the NASA EDGE team). The Sun-Earth Day website will also feature resources for educators, museums, community

groups and amateur astronomers, as well as resources from past Earth-Sun Days. Educators can also register on the website to receive a free folder of materials (while supplies last). To learn more, please visit: <http://sunearthday.nasa.gov>

6. Research-Based Online Learning Event (ROLE) Webinars

Want to know what's happening in the Gulf of Mexico nearly nine months after the Deepwater Horizon disaster?

Registering in advance allows you to contribute your own questions for scientists to answer during the webinar.

<http://cosee.umaine.edu/programs/webinars/upcomingwebinars/>

Deep Horizon Oil Spill - The True Role of Microbes March 23, 2011 - 7pm ET - *Featuring: Dr. Karen Orcutt & Dr. Kjell Gundersen (University of Southern Mississippi)* Nearly nine months after the tragic *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the ecosystem continues to feel its effects. Dr. Orcutt and Dr. Gundersen were on the front line of this disaster, and they presented a webinar in July of 2010 exploring the potential role of microbes in the oil's degradation. They will return with new data to show how the oil has affected their study sites, and what roles microbes have played in the spill's aftermath.

7. Gr 9-12 Realize Science Technology Grant for Agriculture in the Classroom

The Realize Science Technology Grant for Agriculture in the Classroom will award \$5,000 worth of cutting edge science education equipment to K-12 teachers. Those awarded the grant will receive new hand-held video microscopes with software to take still pictures, video, time-lapse movies and other digital resources.

This is a competitive grant. Selection based on the quality and value of the applicants intended use of the equipment. Projects must be creative and innovative and demonstrate educationally valuable uses of hand-held video microscopes. Grant recipients are required to submit information after receipt and use of the equipment that can be shared with other teachers to advance the use of this microscope technology. Lesson plans, testimonials, anecdotal stories and student made work (e.g., multimedia reports, movies, presentations). For more information, please visit:

http://schooltr.com/Teacher_Resources/realize_science_grant.html

Deadline: March 31, 2011

8. The Aquarium of the America's continues the webinar program called *Coast to Classroom* to broadcast directly into your school classrooms allowing students to experience a live interaction with an Aquarium Educator. Through a GOMA/NOAA grant, they currently are able to offer this program free of charge.

Contact Tricia LeBlanc for more information. tleblanc@AudubonInstitute.org

9. Christa McAuliffe: Reach for the Stars - Free DVD offer

In memorial of the 25th anniversary of the *Challenger* Space Shuttle Disaster and the first Teacher in Space, we are happy to partner with DOCClubLA on this special offer for educators. Please fill out the order form at <http://tinyurl.com/ReachfortheStarsDVD>

10. Google Science Fair – Ages 13-18 (Deadline April 4)

Google has launched the inaugural Google Science Fair. This is a global competition open to any student aged 13-18. Registrations and submissions will be made online, and there is no cost to enter. The Science Fair will culminate in a celebratory event at Google headquarters in California in July. Submissions are due by April 4th. For more information, please visit <http://www.google.com/sciencefair>.

11. STUDENT ART & LANGUAGE ARTS CONTEST Deadline APRIL 21, 2011.

Theme for 2011: Louisiana Outdoors: A Beautiful Experience!

Categories for both art and language arts contests:

Group 1 – Ages 5-7

Group 2 – Ages 8-10

Group 3 – Ages 11-13

Group 4 – Ages 14-18

Louisiana students may enter original work in art and/or the language arts area.

Prizes awarded to contest winners:

1st place in each category – \$200

2nd place in each category – \$100

3rd place in each category – \$75

Winning art and language arts entries will be published in our 2012 calendar!

All winners will be honored at a reception to be held at the Governor's Mansion.

An official entry form and release must accompany each entry. Entries that do not comply with contest rules will be disqualified. The reproducible registration form can be downloaded from our website and MUST accompany the entry and MUST be signed by the contestant and parent or guardian.

For more information, full contest guidelines, and contest entry form, please visit <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/environmental-awareness-art-language-arts-contest>