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News Release

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Environmental Education Grants Now Available

The Oklahoma Environmental Quality Education Committee invites qualified individuals to apply for a grant to promote enthusiasm in young people for learning about the environment and natural resources. You must be an Oklahoma teacher, public or private (Pre K – 12), school environmental club, youth group leader, and/or organization with a youth component to apply for the grant.

Applicants may apply for amounts from \$200 up to \$1,000 per grant. A total of \$20,000 will be awarded in early 2010 to winning applicants. Eligible categories include: environmental club projects, green school efforts, edible school gardens, environmental education projects, outdoor classroom revitalization, and recycling and composting programs. Deadline for submission of grant applications is December 1, 2009. Recipients will be selected by December 31, 2009.

Information on allowable expenditures, application criteria, and examples of previous applications are located on the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality Web site at www.deq.state.ok.us. Go to the link under Environmental Education at the bottom of the DEQ home page.

Last year, a total of 27 grants were awarded to: Bixby North 5th & 6th Grade Center, Bixby High School, Clark Elementary – Union Public Schools (Tulsa) Clyde Boyd Middle School – Sand Springs, Cross Timbers Elementary – Edmond, Durant Intermediate School, Girls Scouts of Western Oklahoma, Inola High School, Inola Middle School, Kendall Whitter, Inc. – Tulsa, Keystone Adventure School & Farm – Edmond, Lincoln Elementary School – Pryor, Newsome Community Farms – Tulsa, North Fork of the Red River Conservation District, Oklahoma County Conservation District, Oklahoma Master Naturalist – Edmond, Ripley Public School, Saint Pius X School – Tulsa, Sapulpa Public Schools, Turtle Rock Farm – Red Rock, Union High School – Union Public Schools (Tulsa) West Field Elementary School – Edmond, Wynona High School, Putnam City North – Putnam City Public Schools (Oklahoma City), and Locust Grove 4-H.

This is the 16th year this program has been available to Oklahoma educators. Funds for the program are generated by the sale of the Environmental Education License Tag. The newest Oklahoma environmental license tag features the state wild-flower, the *Gaillardia pulchella*, popularly known as the Indian Blanket. The first colorful license tag is also available. The environmental license tag may be personalized with any combination of six letters and spaces (subject to availability). If the tag is not personalized, the standard prefix of ENV will be assigned along with three numbers.

Applications may be obtained at your local tag agency or by calling the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality at 405-702-7138.

The Oklahoma Environmental Quality Education Committee of the DEQ sponsors this grant program. The Committee is comprised of state agency representatives, teachers, and corporate representatives. The mission of the Committee is to help the general public become more aware of actions and activities that will help preserve and project Oklahoma's environment.

For more information on this grant opportunity, please contact Ellen Bussert at 405-702-7138 or e-mail at Ellen.Bussert@deq.ok.gov.

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