



Bayshore Center at Bivalve

## "Make A Difference" Activities

### Make A Difference In Your Community

#### **Support Local Clean-ups or Monitoring**

Clean Communities Opportunities ([www.njclean.org](http://www.njclean.org)) - Check with your local township Clean Communities Coordinator for how to do a clean-up and possibly be paid for your work.

Delaware River Keepers ([www.delawariverkeeper.org](http://www.delawariverkeeper.org)) - High school level water testing and monitoring opportunities.

Adopt a Stream ([www.adopt-a-stream.org](http://www.adopt-a-stream.org)) - A program where teachers and students adopt a waterway and do chemical, physical, biological, and microbiological testing to determine water quality.

"Surf your watershed" ([www.epa.gov/surf](http://www.epa.gov/surf)) - Contains the Adopt Your Watershed ([www.epa.gov/adopt](http://www.epa.gov/adopt)) database listing over 5,000 groups who partake in watershed protection. "Surf your watershed" also contains Wetlands Restoration Projects where you can add or update information about your project. One such example is Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River Inc. ([www.cumauriceriver.org](http://www.cumauriceriver.org)).

#### **Stencil Your Storm Drains**

Many people in your community may not be aware of the fact that whatever gets washed into the storm drain eventually flows into the nearest stream or river. Soapy water from washing a car in a driveway, extra fertilizer from a lawn, and oil from a leaky car all get washed into the watershed when it rains. That polluted water makes it's way to the Delaware Bay or Atlantic Ocean, depending on your watershed, and is harmful to the plants and animals that live there. Help make your community aware that their actions impact the watershed by stenciling local storm drains. For information about starting a stenciling day go to [www.crstencils.com](http://www.crstencils.com) and learn all about how you can help your watershed.

### **How Long Does Litter Last?**

Plan a trash pickup session for your class in a local area. Good places might be the local mini-mart parking lot, a near-by river or beach, or school grounds.

After collecting the trash research how long each type of litter will take to biodegrade, make a chart, and display it where you collected the trash. You will be amazed at how long it takes common trash items to break down!

### **Letter Campaign**

Choose a current environmental issue of local, state, or national importance. For example, a national issue might be the effect of the Kyoto Protocol (1997) on industries in the United States, while a state issue might be the proposed dredging of the Delaware River by the Corp of Engineers. A good source for local issues is your daily newspaper, or check out different environmental organizations. Think about the people, organizations, or companies involved and how they affect the issue. Who has the biggest impact on an issue? Would it be more effective to send a letter to the editor of a local newspaper or to your state Senator? After investigating an issue from all angles, compose a letter stating your opinions, feelings, or research on the issue and send it to whomever you feel needs to know where you stand.

### **Delaware Bay Days Poetry and Poster Contests**

The Bayshore Center at Bivalve hosts "Bay Days" on the second Saturday in June. Classes can enter the poetry or poster contests. Deadline for entries is May 1<sup>st</sup> and winners will be announced at Bay Days. Contact the Project at (856) 785-2060 for more details. Even if you don't participate in the contests, still come down for the all of the other exciting events!

## **Make a Difference In Your School**

### **Audit Your School**

Investigate environmental practices of your school. Ask the principal if the school and cafeteria recycles. Does your school reuse printer paper? Find out local recycling opportunities and whether or not your school can get involved. Organize a recycling day in your class or school, have everyone bring in recyclable materials and then take them to the local recycling plant. Are your school heaters on a timer? Institute a school-wide policy to always turn off lights if the room is not in use. How much garbage does your school

produce each day? Make a pledge to reduce energy use or garbage production by 10%. Make a list of energy conservation tips to do at home and do one each day.

### **Schoolyard Habitat Programs**

Your school campus can become a unique home to local and migratory wildlife species by turning it into a habitat-based learning site. For examples of two New Jersey schools that have already set up Habitats, look at Dwight-Engelwood School and Orchard Hill Elementary (on the NWF schoolyard web page). Visit the National Wildlife Federation schoolyard habitat homepage for more details. ([www.nwf.org/schoolyards/](http://www.nwf.org/schoolyards/)).

## **Make a Difference On the *A.J. Meerwald***

### **Resources of the Delaware River Estuary**

#### **Oysters**

- Create a time line illustrating the effect of oystering on the South Jersey economy. Make it interactive, fun, and very informative.
- Design a chart or diagram showing the oystering process from gathering to packaging.
- Both may potentially be used onboard the *A.J. Meerwald*.

#### **Food web**

- Design and build a 3-dimensional model depicting a detailed food web that would be found in the Delaware Estuary. The model should include visuals of each type of organism. Create a way to show what would happen if any one of the organisms was removed from the food web. Include an essay with the model discussing what a food web is and statistics showing the amount of food eaten by at least four species in the model.
- May be used onboard the *A.J. Meerwald*.

### **Save The "choose an organism" Packet**

Design a packet of information that persuades people to "save" a particular animal or plant found in the Delaware Estuary. Perhaps choose an organism that is not often thought about (sea squirts!) but is affected by human action, or one that was hauled up in the otter trawl and discussed during your sail on the *Meerwald*. In a large envelope, submit the following:

- A handout explaining the background on this organism.

- A visual showing the organism, i.e. overhead, poster, photo, etc.
- A 5-10 minute presentation persuading the audience to save this organism.
- A logo or mascot representing this animal or plant.
- An oath or campaign pledge for this cause and the address of at least one legislator that it could be sent to.
- An original button or bumper sticker for this cause.
- A cover letter convincing an environmental group to use this packet.
- A certificate commending efforts to save this organism.

### **Make a Difference Somewhere, Somehow**

Or investigate other possible activities that could make an effect locally, nationally, or globally. Use your imagination!