



YES! Update 11.20.2017

Program Announcements

- Congratulations to the McKnight sponsored Project Seed Fund awards! See [link](#) for each award winner and what their projects will be. – *Shelli-Kae Foster*
- Team Reminders
 - Please submit your project proposal questionnaire [here](#) so your coordinator can get your team its customized metric tool. This document will be **required to submit** to qualify for spring judging.
 - We invite you to celebrate excellence in achievement by placing a nomination for the WEM Outstanding Educator Award, Academic Challenge Coach and the Minnesota Ethical Leadership Award.
 - The WEM Outstanding Educator, **Academic Challenge Coach Award** recognizes exemplary coaches of Minnesota student teams that participate and compete in academic challenges approved by the Minnesota Academic League Council (all challenges listed in Reach for the Stars qualify). A Minnesota teaching license is not required for the Academic Challenge Coach category. State honorees will receive a crystal apple and an unrestricted \$15,000 gift at an awards brunch in the spring. Regional honorees will receive an unrestricted \$1,500 gift, trophy and the opportunity to compete in the state competition the following year. Click on the link for [more information](#) or to [place a nomination](#). **Nomination deadline is December 8.**

Regional Highlights

Northeast - The Wrenshall YES! team has big plans to enter into the solar boat regatta this year for the first time. The team is currently working on boat design and learning about the solar panels and how they need to be wired to provide power for their boat. Keep an eye on this team this year at the regatta.

- *Jim*

West Central – There will be a supermilage and solar transportation winter workshop occurring on December 6th or 7th at Glencoe Silver Lake High School from 9 am to 1 or 2:30 pm! Keep a look out for more information. -*Ali*

Northwest - It is already time to start planning for Winter Workshops! Thank you to the teams that completed the Winter Workshop Survey for session topics. I am looking forward to visiting with my teams over the next couple weeks! -*Monica*

Southern - The Springfield team is currently working on multiple projects including collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald house, collecting Christmas lights, and placing recycling bins for plastics in the hallways, computer labs, and common areas. Keep up the great work team! - *Michelle*

Climate Change

- Animals at Risk from Climate Change – Poster – The complex interaction of biological traits and environmental conditions that cause a species to be susceptible to climate change and the basics of the carbon cycle are made simple and understandable through illustrations, symbols and brief explanatory text--thoroughly documented to reliable sources. To order or view all elements of the poster click [here](#).

State & National Grants & Other Opportunities

Register by November 25, 2017 - *Project Polar Bear* - an international competition among student groups who are taking action to fight climate change. With the guidance of an advisor, groups compete by creating a plan for a project that will help reduce reliance on fossil fuels and engage their communities. The top three high-scoring teams will receive a grant of \$1,000, \$750, and \$300 respectively to continue their projects. Learn more [here](#).

December 6, 2017 - *Good Food! Celebrating Champions of Food Access* - This event will feature innovative, community-based champions, including farmers markets, food shelves, food service, and those growing food. You don't want to miss this opportunity to connect directly with others from the region and exchange ideas about ways to ensure all community members have access to healthy, safe, and affordable food.

- Location: Marshall Area YMCA, 200 South A St., Marshall, MN ([map](#))
- Networking will start at 9:30 am. Program 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.
- Lunch will be provided free of charge

All are welcome!

- Mileage reimbursement will be available to reduce barriers to attendance for your or community partners. Please contact adybsett@umn.edu.
- Please [RSVP by clicking here](#) by Friday, December 1.

December 9, 2017 - *Climate Change and the Mississippi: Meet Us at the Confluence Workshop* - Discover the science, impacts, and solutions of climate change happening right here in the Midwest. Find out more and register for this workshop [here](#).

Project Learning Tree Grants – [GreenSchools](#) provides a blueprint for educators, students, environmental and health advocates, school board members, parents, and interested community members to teach, learn, and engage together in creating a more green and healthy learning environment at their school. Grants up to \$3,000 are available.

