



YES! Update 2.3.2020

Program Update: YES! Regional Judging Dates Announced

April 21st – West Central/Northwest Regional Judging via Zoom (*Contact Taylor or Shelli-Kae to secure spot*)

April 21st – Northeast Regional Judging via Zoom (*Contact Tom or Deb to secure spot*)

April 23rd – Southern/Metro Regional Judging via Zoom (*Contact Sam to secure spot*)

Regional Highlights

Northeast (Laurentian Environmental Center) – Harbor City International School will be putting planters in their school soon to help produce local fruits and vegetables for their classmates to consume at lunch. ~Sam Horner

West Central (Prairie Woods ELC) – Prairie Woods ELC will be hosting their annual Winter Fun Day event on Sunday, February 9th from 11:00 AM-4:00 PM. Join us for chili, live music, winter hobby booths, xc skiing, snowshoeing, kick sledding, and rock climbing. The NL-S Middle School YES! team will be selling their beeswax products at this event. ~Taylor Templer

Southern (Ney Nature Center) – The Westbrook-Walnut Grove team is diving into aquatic education! After being trained to lead an activity from the DNR [MinnAqua Leader's Guide](#), the team will teach it to elementary students attending the May 13 Science and Nature Conference in Marshall. ~Deb Groebner

Metro – The Hopkins High School YES! Team has developed a number of energy and environmental projects for the year including conducting a B3 Benchmarking analysis to identify opportunities to save energy and reduce operating costs for all schools in the district, developing methods to reduce food waste and improve recycling, and planting a pollinator garden/prairie on school grounds. Keep up the great work! ~Tom McDougall

Northwest – In November, Royalton YES! coaches Marty Bratsch and Jeanne Omig instructed students on how to use a water testing kit to test for nitrates and other compounds along the Platte River. This spring they plan to test the tributaries of the Platte and Mississippi Rivers and other local bodies of water. ~Shelli-Kae Foster

Upcoming YES! Workshops

Southern Prairies – Prairie plants, soil, and water! **February 26th** at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall.

Reduce Plastics – Keep Waste in its Place to Protect Our Waters! – **March 4th** at Crow Wing County Solid Waste & Recycling in Brainerd

Help Our Waters – Water Quality, Aquatic Invasive Species and Summer Paddling Preparation – **March 11th** at Prairie Woods ELC in Spicer

What Will You Drive? – Electric Vehicles and Clean Transportation – **April 15th** at South Central Service Cooperative in North Mankato

YES! News

[Mankato Area Public Schools talks climate change with its students](#)

[Deb's Climate Story](#)

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