

# APRIL ECO-SUMMIT

## Host an Eco-Summit at your School:

The Eco-Summit, the reflection portion of the Green Schools Challenge, provides K-12 students the opportunity to share their achievements and to be recognized for the green initiatives they implemented during the school year. The Eco-Summit is an optional activity and may be substituted for one of the monthly challenge activities.

A school-wide Eco-Summit is designed to nurture student leadership skills and help students gain confidence in sharing the green message with a larger audience. The Summit also seeks to increase students' critical thinking, communication skills and self-confidence through public speaking and making presentations.

Participation in the Eco-Summit prepares students to actively engage in their role as young community leaders, capable of articulating and building consensus around their vision for the future.

## Eco-Summit Objectives:

- Work with students to foster civic responsibility
- Facilitate discussion with other students, teachers, staff and parents about sustainable solutions to environmental concern

## Guidelines:

A school Eco-Summit can be held in April, as part of a school's Earth Day event or in May, to celebrate the completion of the Green Schools Challenge. Eco Summit activities can include motivational opening and closing ceremonies, a showcase of green exhibits or a series of panel discussions based on the themes of the various Green Schools Challenge monthly topics.

At the Eco-Summit, students have the opportunity to:

- Invite community leaders involved in environmental leadership.
- Share stories, exchange ideas, and connect with other like-minded students.

- Submit a presentation in a variety of categories including music, film/video, visual arts, poetry, theater and dance.

## Step 1: Develop an idea to foster student leadership

Take at least 1 to 2 weeks before the Eco-Summit to prepare the materials. Green Teams may use the materials produced for the Monthly Challenges to support the Summit. Below are ideas to host a successful summit:

- Table Exhibit: Prepare a table exhibit to display the Green Schools Challenge activities, including posters, pictures, energy reports and energy reduction measurements. The table exhibit should be interactive to gain the attention of visitors.
- Art Exhibit: Display art projects created as part of the Green Schools Challenge activities. The artwork should educate students and staff and the community about an environmental issue.
- Lecture or Poster Presentation: Prepare a presentation about the natural environment, conserving resources or what people need to do to help the planet. The presentation can be a PowerPoint, overheads, a video, a speech or a poster exhibit showing what the Green Team accomplished during the school year.
- Song/Dance/Poetry: Use song, dance or poetry to creatively communicate an environmental message. Encourage students to work together to create a skit or eco-performance.

## Step 2: Invite the community to attend the Eco-Summit

Invite others at the school and in the community to attend the Eco-Summit. The purpose of the Eco-Summit is to spread the environmental message and sustainability message to a larger audience.