Educating for Stewardship: Inspiring and Engaging Youth

Planning Successful Youth Water Education Programs

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2010 WI Lakes Convention, Green Bay, WI

AGENDA

- Why youth water education?
- Find youth water education resources
- Tips for planning new youth programs
- Case study demonstration: *Holding onto the Green Zone*
- Discussion of educator opportunities and challenges

WHY YOUTH?

- Promote youth development
- Foster community partnerships
- Build capacity to complete management tasks

WHY YOUTH?

- **Promote youth development –**

We want youth to become:

- More interested in science and in water
- More knowledgeable about environment
- More active environmental stewards
- Better critical thinkers about water resources
- Water wise adults

WHY YOUTH?

- **Foster community partnerships**
  - Parents
  - Teachers
  - School administrators
  - Volunteers
  - Non-government organizations
  - Service organizations
  - Religious groups
  - Businesses

WHY YOUTH?

Build

capacity

WHY YOUTH?

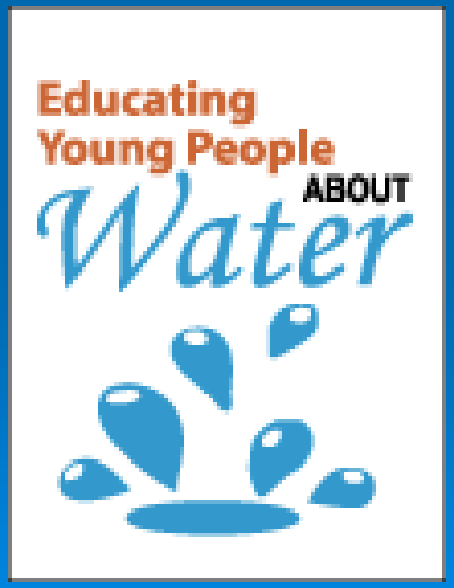
FIND YOUTH WATER EDUCATION RESOURCES

- **National Extension Youth Water Programs**
  - Educating Young People About Water
  - CESYES (Coop Ext Supports Youth Environmental Stewardship)
  - Holding onto the GREEN Zone
- **Other national sources**
  - Digital Library for Earth System Education www.dlese.org ["lakes" = 1366 resources]
  - EE Links, NAAEE www.naaee.org/ee-link "lakes" = 1634 resources]

NATIONAL EXTENSION YOUTH WATER PROGRAMS

Educating Young People About Water

www.uwex.edu/erc/eypaw/



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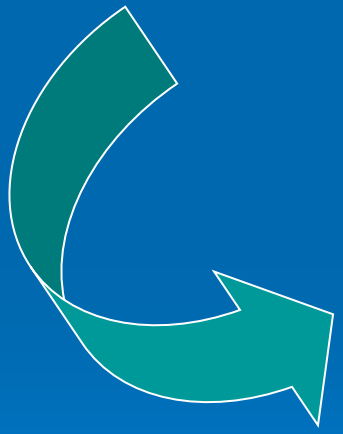
EDUCATING YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT WATER

- *A Guide to Program Planning and Evaluation*

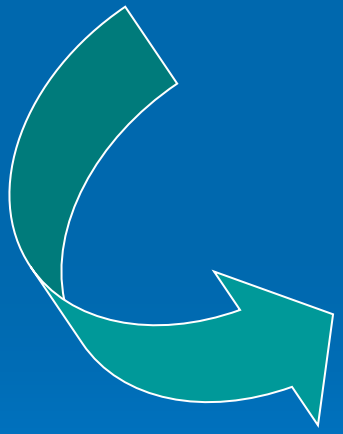


Address community needs

Work in partnership with local experts

EDUCATING YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT WATER

- *A Guide to Unique Program Strategies*



Develop a program strategy appropriate for your situation

EDUCATING YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT WATER

- *Water-related Curricula Database*

Find and select water education curricula

www.uwex.edu/erc/eypaw/choose.html

Cooperative Extension Supports Youth Environmental Stewardship

http://cesyes.net

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CES YES: Earth Connections

- Planning Youth-Directed Natural Resources and Environmental Action Programs (handout)

- Engaging Youth in Community Environmental Activities

  http://cesyes.net/engagingfactsheet.pdf

Engaging Youth in Community Environmental Activities

What is EE and Stewardship?

Is youth environmental stewardship important to you or your organization?

Engaging youth

Finding materials and resources

Environmental program ideas

Working with partners

Schools as partners

CES YES
http://www.cesyes.net

Cooperative Extension Supports Youth Environmental Stewardship

EARTH CONNECTIONS

Engaging Youth in Community Environmental Activities

Youth can be valuable partners and resources in helping protect our environment and in addressing environmental concerns. They have the power to make a difference in their communities, but often need the encouragement of adults before taking on the challenges of environmental stewardship. This brochure will help you engage youth in an environmental action project, find great program ideas and educational resources, and plan how to work with partners to meet project goals.

A companion brochure, *Planning Youth-Directed Natural Resources and Environmental Action Programs*, can be found on the CES YES web site: http://www.cesyes.net

What is Environmental Education and Stewardship?

Environmental education programs:

- Provide opportunities for youth to gather information.
- Increase knowledge and awareness of systems and issues.
- Build commitment and interest.
- Foster cooperation in resolving environmental concerns and issues.

Environmental stewardship is the concept of encouraging young people to serve their communities as protectors of the environment. Youth learn to understand and appreciate a broad range of perspectives and to take responsible action – not only on their own behalf, but on behalf of future generations. To develop creative, community-based solutions for environmental issues, it is important for leaders to help youth:

- Understand ecological concepts.
- Be aware of environmental issues.
- Develop scientific questioning and investigation abilities, and critical thinking skills.
- Build leadership skills.
- Develop the confidence needed to address environmental concerns.

Youth have a natural curiosity about science and the environment. They are eager to help protect our natural resources.

http://cesyes.net/engagingfactsheet.pdf

- **Just say YES**

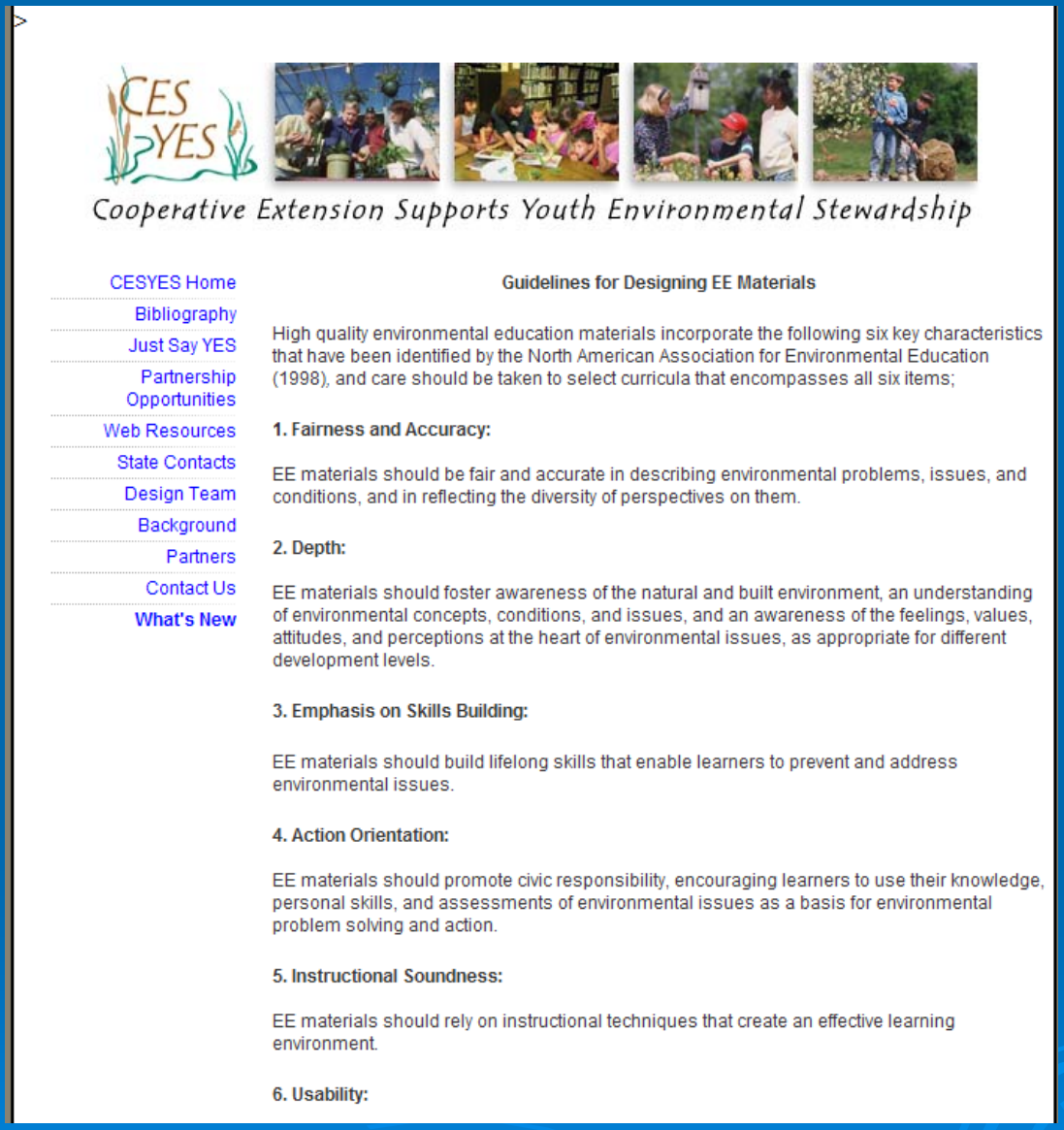
  http://cesyes.net/jsy.html

  - **What is youth environmental stewardship?**
  - **How to evaluate useful EE programs**

- **What is youth environmental stewardship?**
  - Nature Appreciation
  - Conservation Education
  - Environmental Education
  - Resource Education
  - Wilderness Education
  - Service Learning
  - Education for Sustainability
  - Education Reform Efforts

How to evaluate useful EE programs

- Guidelines for Designing EE Materials
- Characteristics of Youth by Age
- Experiential Learning Model
- NAAEE Guidelines for Learning about the Environment



- **http://cesyes.net/jsyGuidelinesee.html**

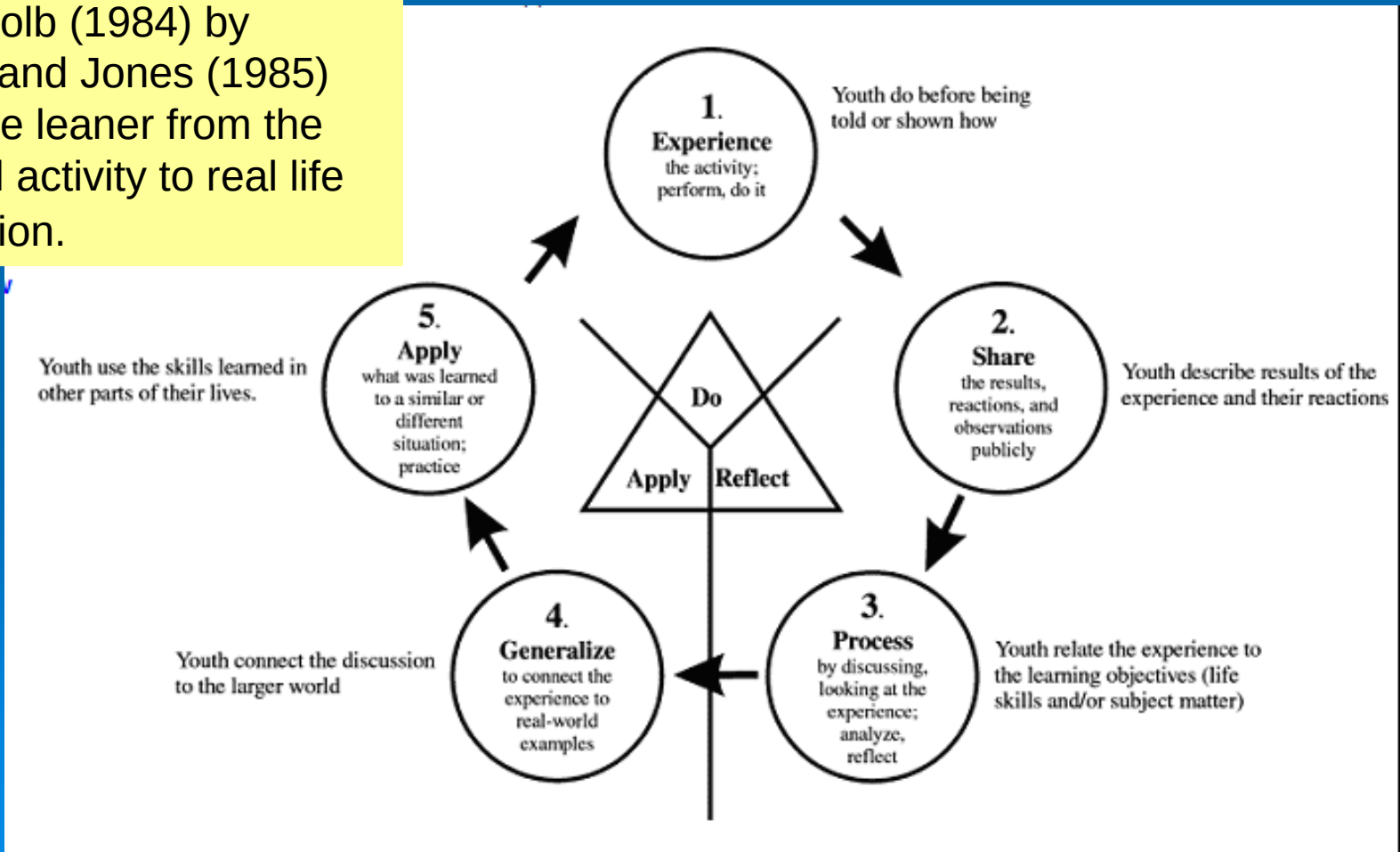
Characteristics of youth by age

http://cesyes.net/jsyYouthbyage.html

Experiential Learning Model

- **http://cesyes.net/jsyExperimental.html**

The five-step ordered cycle adapted from the work of David Kolb (1984) by Pfeiffer and Jones (1985) takes the leaner from the physical activity to real life application.



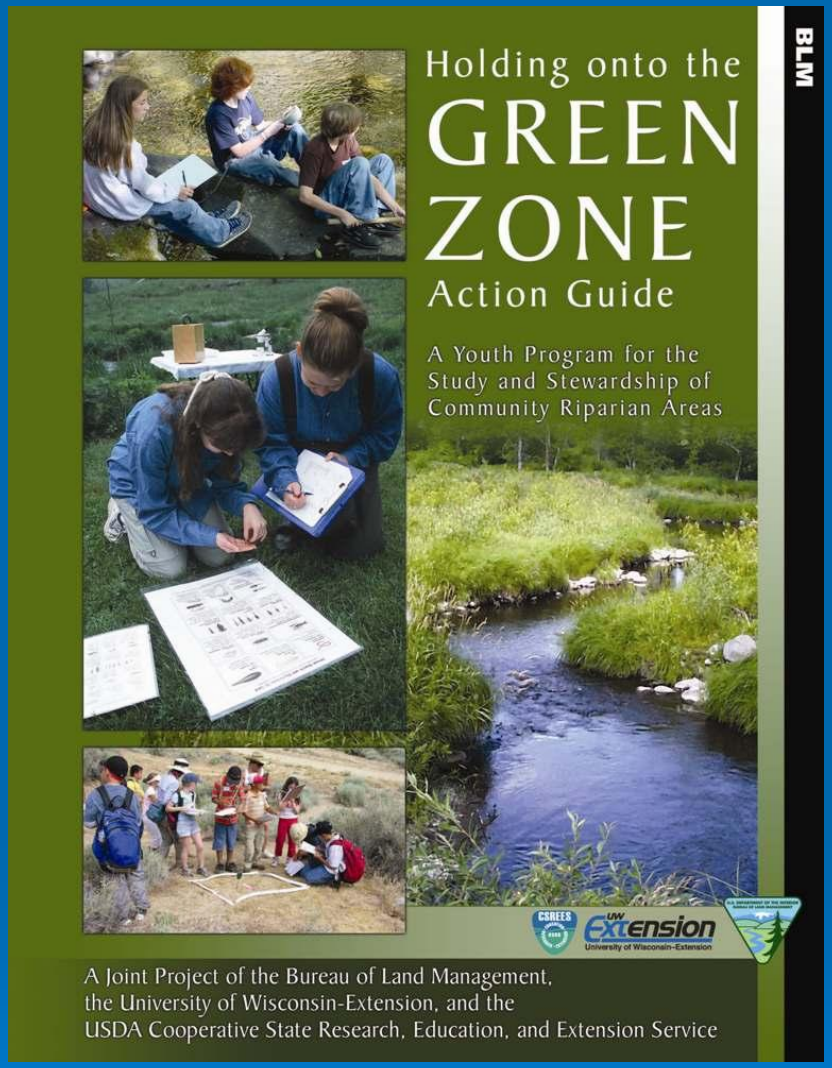
NAAEE Guidelines for Learning about the Environment

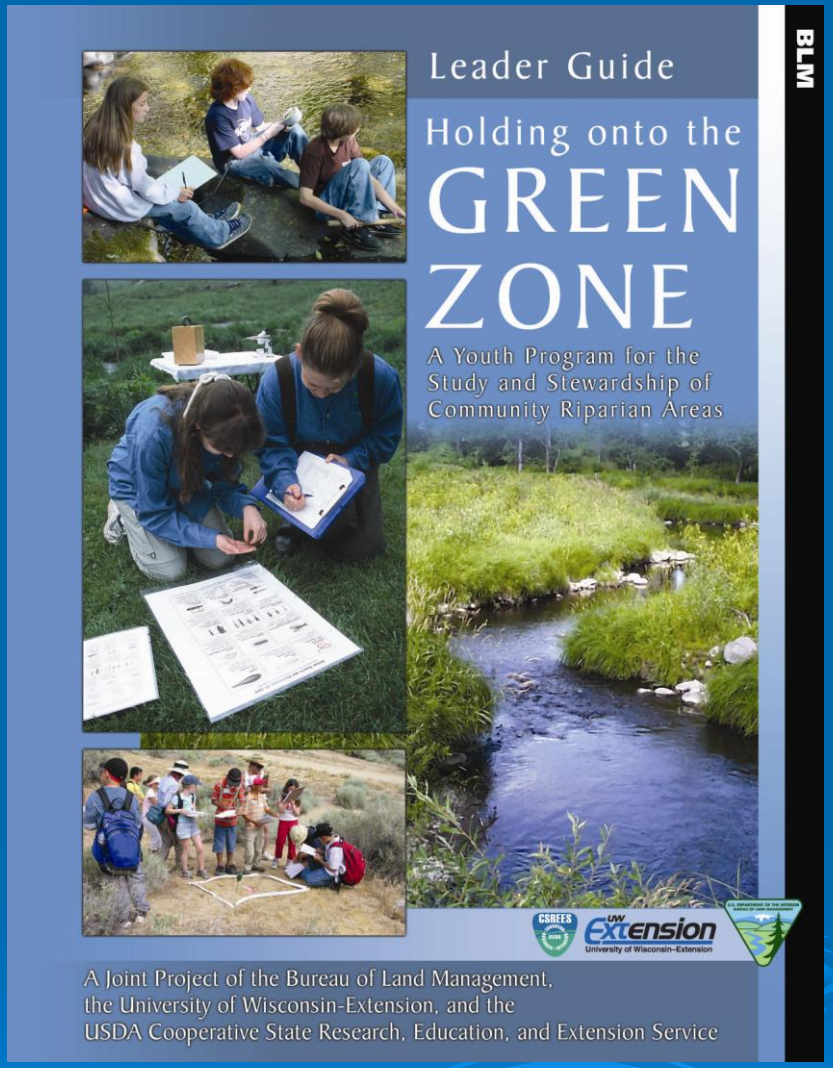
http://cesyes.net/jsyGuidelineslearning.html

TIPS FOR PLANNING

Key elements of success

- Set goals
- Use latest scientific info and protocols
- Enlist community partners
- Correlate K-12 activities to education and EE standards
- Understand youth needs
  - Provide choices and time for reflection
  - Include games, arts, action, and fun
- Evaluate and assess





www.uwex.edu/erc/youth/riparian

Critter Cubes Activity

- P. 28 in the Leader Guide
- Instructions on p. 43 for indoor macroinvertebrate biotic index activity (critter cubes)
- Instructions on p. 67 for field trip "Macroinvertebrate Survey"

THANKS!

Extension Youth Water Education

Expanding Community-based Outreach Efforts

2009 USDA/CSREES National Water Conference, St. Louis. MO