LEEC NEWS

LEEC GRANT APPLICATIONS PROCESS OPENS AUG. 21

The application portal for Louisiana Environmental Education Commission grants will open Monday, August 21, 2017. The deadline for submissions will be midnight on Monday, September 25, 2017.

This year marks a change from the spring RFP release schedule historically practiced by the LEEC. The transition to a fall submission window will ensure that funds for awardees are made available within the same academic year.

The categories for LEEC grants are listed below.

- **Educator Grants** - Based on sound scientific principles, have an environmental focus, and be designed to directly impact Louisiana students - Those eligible: Accredited K-12 Louisiana schools - Maximum award: $1,000 for 1 teacher or $2,000 for a team
- **Professional Development Grants** - Based on sound scientific principles, have an environmental focus, and be designed to directly impact preservice and/or in-service educators in Louisiana - Those eligible: Louisiana education, state, or environmental agencies, colleges, universities, or 501(C)(3) nonprofit organizations - Maximum award: $2,500
- **Green Schools Grants** - Supports projects designed to reduce a school’s environmental impact, reduce health disparities that can aggravate achievement gaps, and engage students in hands-on learning. Proposals to be considered are those that align with pillars found in the U.S. Department of Education’s Green Ribbon Schools Program: [http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/green-schools-pillars-and-elements](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/green-schools-pillars-and-elements) - Those eligible: Accredited K-12 Louisiana schools - Maximum award: $5,000

Links to the application portal will be mailed to subscribers and available at [http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/grant-opportunities](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/grant-opportunities).

BECOME A GREEN RIBBON SCHOOL

Louisiana Green Schools can nominate up to five schools and one Institute of Higher Education for the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School (ED-GRS) award. The recognition award is a part of efforts to identify and communicate practices that result in improved student engagement, academic achievement, graduation rates, and workforce preparedness.

Louisiana K-12 public and private schools, early learning centers, and school districts are eligible to seek ED-GRS nomination. To be considered for an ED-GRS nomination, please download and follow the instructions in the documents below. If your school or district is selected as a Louisiana nominee, Louisiana Green Schools staff will work with you to submit the nominee presentation form and package to the U.S. Department of Education for consideration. State nominees are announced in February, confirmed by ED in April, and celebrated in a summer award ceremony. Find out more at [http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/green-ribbon-schools](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/green-ribbon-schools).

K-12 Materials
- Instructions for K-12 Applicants
- 2018 Nomination Presentation Form for K-12 Schools
- 2018 Application Packet for K-12 Schools

Postsecondary Materials
- Instructions for Postsecondary Institutions
- 2018 Nominee Presentation Form for Postsecondary Institutions
- 2018 Application Packet for Postsecondary Institutions
WEBINARS

HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS WEBINAR FROM NASA

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s (NASA’s) Applied Remote Sensing Training Program (ARSET) will conduct a free, four-session online webinar series in September 2017 about remote sensing and harmful algal blooms (HABs). HABs can have a negative impact on the ecosystem and human health. Satellite remote sensing allows frequent data collection over a large area to identify impaired water quality from HABs.

The course agenda is available on the ARSET training webpage.

CONTEST

WIN $1000 FROM NUTRIENTS FOR LIFE

Nutrients for Life Foundation’s Fertilizer - Life’s Main Ingredient contest is a creative way to showcase fertilizer and sustainability. Open to science and agriculture classes grades 7-12, the contest encourages classes to submit one poster or video per classroom that explains how sustainably implemented fertilization practices help grow enough food to provide for a growing population.

The top 5 posters and videos chosen in each state will state be recognized as winners. The first place winner in each state will go on to compete in the National Contest against other state winners for $1,000.

The deadline for submission is September 22. See the contest flyer for more details and submission information.

DID YOU KNOW? Eight million tons of plastic are dumped in the ocean every year.

Source: National Geographic

LAGNIAPPE

PLASTIC DEBRIS ODOR PROMPTS FEEDING IN SOME FISH

In a study titled “Odours from marine plastic debris induce food search behaviours in a forage fish” by Matthew S. Savoca, Chris W. Tyson, Michael McGill, Christina J. Slager, the authors present evidence that anchovy respond to the odor of plastic debris with the same behaviors they exhibit when presented with the smell of food. Previous research had determined that anchovy do feed on plastic, but there was previously no explanation why they misidentify plastics as a viable food source.

Find the abstract for the article, published in Proceedings of the Royal Society B, on the Royal Society B website.

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