



Photograph by V. Flores

“Children are born with a sense of wonder and an affinity for nature. Properly cultivated, these values can mature into ecological literacy, and eventually into sustainable patterns of living.”
Zenobia Barlow

Connecting Children with Nature Action Forum

A Project of the World Forum Foundation’s
Nature Action Collaborative for Children

October 17-20, 2010

**Arbor Day Farm’s Lied Lodge & Conference Center
Nebraska City, Nebraska, United States**



www.worldforumfoundation.com/nature

Planet Earth is vulnerable to environmental threats of monumental proportions. Our current generation of leaders is only beginning to address these challenges. Globally we require dramatic progress in developing renewable energy sources, curbing encroachments on the natural environment, and fostering sustainable development. Finding solutions to environmental challenges will require the best minds and best efforts of this and future generations. It is vital that we help today’s young children develop positive emotional connections with nature so that they will want to take action on behalf of the environment as adults.

The purpose of the **Connecting Children with Nature Action Forum** is to nurture future generations of environmental stewards by equipping and training 70 nature action teams from around the world to lead campaigns to connect children with nature in their communities, regions, and nations.

What is a Nature Action Team?

Based on two previous Working Forums organized by the Nature Action Collaborative for Children, we now know that multi-disciplinary efforts to connect children with nature yield dramatic results. Therefore, we are





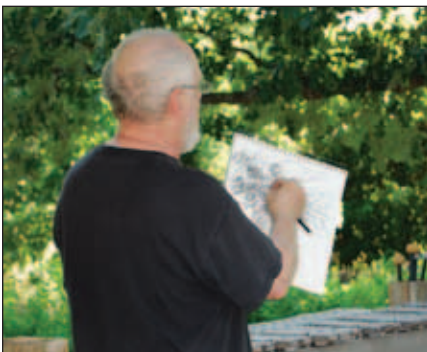
inviting teams that include a range of disciplines to participate: early childhood educators, environmental educators and advocates, designers, planners, landscape architects, community health experts.

Attendance will be limited. Early in 2010, teams can apply for participation at www.WorldForumFoundation.org/actionteams. Teams will be selected based in part on the order in which they are received, and in part on how they contribute to the geographic and professional diversity of the initiative.

How will Nature Action Teams Benefit?

At the **Connecting Children with Nature Action Forum**, teams will be provided with a wide range of tools and strategies to enable them to launch successful campaigns to connect children with nature:

- Each team will be provided unlimited access to in-print and online Nature Education Action Kits in diverse languages that they can use to plan, promote, and implement their campaigns. The kits will include research-based arguments on the value of connecting children with nature; PowerPoint® presentations; collections of developmentally appropriate activities for parents and early childhood educators; dramatic graphics for posters; flyers and web pages; practical advice on conducting community forums, conferences, and public relations campaigns; and links to valuable resources.
- The first day of the Forum will provide new ideas and inspiration as people currently engaged in innovative and effective nature-education projects from around the world share their stories.
- The second day of the Forum will provide training on the various strategies nature action teams can utilize in their campaigns — organizing a national or regional conference; pulling together a local or regional coalition; holding community forums; launching family nature clubs; designing model nature spaces for children; creating multi-disciplinary college courses; encouraging parents and early childhood programs to connect children to nature; and advocating for public policies that promote connecting children to nature.
- During the final day, NACC consultants will provide technical assistance to teams to advance their projects.
- Throughout the Forum there will be time for personal nature connections on the property, musical interludes, delicious food from Arbor Day Farm's fields, and many chances to share ideas with committed and knowledgeable nature-education advocates from 50 countries.



“When we are dreaming alone it is only a dream. When we are dreaming with others, it is the beginning of reality.”

Dom Helder Camara

Who is Organizing this Forum?

This project is being led by the Nature Action Collaborative for Children of the World Forum Foundation. The Forum is being hosted by the Arbor Day Foundation, and the Nature Action Kits have been developed by Dimensions Educational Research Foundation. To learn more about these organizers, go to www.dimensionsfoundation.org and www.arborday.org. Funding for this Forum is provided by a growing number of sponsors including IBM Work/Life Fund.

How Can I Learn More about this Forum?

The web site of the World Forum Foundation has a “Frequently Asked Questions” page that provides up-to-date information. www.WorldForumFoundation.org/nature

