



Your contracts add up to \$135,525

We look forward to working with you on your PRIDE Environmental Education Contracts for the 2011/2012 school year.

We awarded 95 contracts, worth up to \$1,500 each, to schools and nonprofit organizations across the region. They are listed at <http://kypride.org/?p=1271>.

You will serve 37,181 students in our region this school year with the contracts, based on your applications. Many projects, such as greenhouses, will be used by students for years to come.

Since 1997, you have impacted 655,736 students with 1,188 PRIDE awards for environmental education. Those funds have led to 55 school recycling projects, 397 outdoor classrooms, 129 greenhouses, 67 nature trails, and 61 wetlands and rain gardens.

Your projects

Your applications outlined a variety of hands-on activities to show students how and why to take responsibility for our region's unique environment.



This recycling station was built for less than \$20 of Page School Center's (Bell County) \$1,450 PRIDE contract.

Ten schools will start or expand recycling — a great example of a classroom lesson that can turn into a lifelong habit of good stewardship. When you buy recycling bins and supplies with PRIDE funds, your students can see, first hand, just how easy recycling is.

An erosion problem will become a learning experience at Russell County Middle School, thanks to a PRIDE contract. The school will build a rain garden at downspouts where water causes damage. Students can observe plants and wildlife in the rain garden, as well as observe an environmentally friendly way to control drainage.

PRIDE Clubs

Your contracts included \$250 to operate a service-oriented PRIDE Club. So far, 66 PRIDE Clubs have been registered. Be sure to send us your stories and photos!

If you haven't started a PRIDE Club yet, please consider this excellent tool for engaging your students in their community. Call us, toll free, at 888.577.4339.

Your PRIDE liaisons start work

We welcome aboard our PRIDE Environmental Education Outreach Program Liaisons for the 2011/2012 school year. Twelve liaisons are in place to serve the 23 counties that have enrolled in the program so far. They are reaching out to elementary school teachers to bring fun, interactive environmental science lessons that reinforce core content. So you will recognize your liaison, their photos and brief bios are inside. [See pages 2 and 3.](#)

Your stories & photos inside

Thank you for sending us stories and photos of your environmental education activities. Good news should be shared, and we are honored to play that role for our region. Inside are items from Clay, Leslie, Morgan and Whitley Counties, as well as the winners of the PRIDE Environmental Education Project of the Month Award. [See pages 4, 5 and 6.](#)

Resources for you

We gathered resources to support your good work as an environmental educator. We list four grant programs, three award programs, several upcoming events and one new book. [See page 7.](#)



A Corbin High School student led a water quality activity when the high school PRIDE Club hosted a Science Field Day for third-grade students. Submitted by Ann Hail

MEET YOUR PRIDE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OUTREACH LIAISON

Liaisons want to work closely with you to reinforce core content with fun, hands-on activities. To contact your liaison, use the e-mail address listed below.

Liaisons will be placed soon in Harlan, Knox, Leslie and Wolfe Counties. If your county isn't listed here, then explore enrolling in the PRIDE Environmental Education Outreach Program by calling us at 888.577.4339 (toll free).

Kody Christian – Lee and Owsley Counties



E-mail: kodychristian@gmail.com
This is Kody's second year as the liaison for Lee and Owsley Counties. He says he enjoys working with the students and helping them learn. Outside the classroom, he co-owns a screen printing shop in Booneville, and he plays in a Christian music group.
We thank our program partners: Lee County Fiscal Court, Lee County Conservation District, City of Beattyville and Lee County Schools; and Owsley County Fiscal Court, Owsley County Conservation District, City of Booneville and Owsley County Schools.

Wonda Hammons – Clay, Jackson and Rockcastle Counties



E-mail: wondasgallery@prtcnet.org
Wonda is an active member of the Jackson County PRIDE Committee. When she was the county's liaison for the 2009/2010 school year, she spearheaded a contest to create student-designed road signs with environmental messages. The signs are now visible across the county, and the project won a PRIDE award.
We thank our partners: U.S. Forest Service's Redbird Ranger District; Jackson County Fiscal Court; and Rockcastle County Fiscal Court, Rockcastle County School System and Appalachia Science in the Public Interest.

Cindy Looney – Perry and Pike Counties (including Hazard Independent, Pikeville Independent and St. Francis of Assisi)



E-mail: cindy.looney@gmail.com
Though new to the liaison program, Cindy has been involved with PRIDE for six years as an employee of Light-year Network Solutions, formerly SouthEast Telephone. She is passionate about the PRIDE mission, which she sees as important to our communities. She will encourage students to take environmental education home.
We thank our program partners: Perry County Fiscal Court and City of Hazard; and Pike County Solid Waste.

Sarah Talley – Bell County (including Middlesboro Independent and Pineville Independent)



E-mail: slmichael2230@yahoo.com
This is Sarah's second year as the Bell County liaison. She has a degree in ecology, a teaching license and experience as an educator at state and national parks.
Sarah says: "My greatest satisfaction is watching a passion for the environment ignite in the next generation."
We thank our program partners: Bell County 109 Board, Bell County Schools, and Middlesboro and Pineville Independent Schools.

Sue Christian – Breathitt and Menifee Counties



E-mail: sue_christian12@eku.edu
Sue has been a liaison since 2009, previously serving Lee and Owsley Counties. She completed her teaching degree in May.
Sue says: "I am looking forward to the exhilarating topics that the students and I will be discovering together. One of my favorite quotes is, 'Learning occurs through experience,' by John Dewey."
We thank our program partners, the Breathitt County and Menifee County Fiscal Courts.

Derrick Howard – Magoffin County



E-mail: dfhowa01@yahoo.com
Derrick served as the Magoffin County liaison last year, too. He has a bachelor's degree in business administration and real estate.
Derrick says: "I feel that it is important for everyone to have an interest in environmental education. It is vital that we as educators, parents, families and friends unite and work together to spread the importance of keeping our environment clean and safe."
We thank our program partner, the Magoffin County Fiscal Court.

Beth McDaniel – Laurel County (including East Bernstadt Independent)



E-mail: jemcdaniel@windstream.net
Beth will complete a master's degree in school counseling in May 2012. She has a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in community counseling.
Beth says: "I believe the greatest thing we can do is reach our youth. We have raised our four daughters to be avid recyclers, as well as yearly participants in the Spring Cleanup."
We thank our program partner, the Laurel County Fiscal Court.

Monica Walker – Pulaski (including Science Hill Independent and Somerset Independent) and Russell Counties



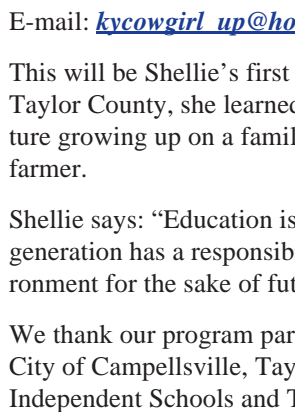
E-mail: moni_lynn63@hotmail.com
Monica served as Pulaski County's liaison last year. She has 10 years of experience as an elementary school teacher.
Monica says: "I am confident this generation of students, armed with a great education, can preserve and protect the Commonwealth and the Earth."
We thank our program partners, the Pulaski County and Russell County Fiscal Courts.

Paul Flowers – Lawrence County



Phone: 606.673.1123
Paul, a retired teacher, has been Lawrence County's liaison since January 2011. Last spring, he led fourth graders at three schools in the "Cleanup Pinky Promise" project, which won a PRIDE award.
He says: "My goals are to teach our young people to respect the environment and to support our teachers by bringing in lessons and activities tied to state-tested concepts and skills."
We thank our program partner, the Lawrence County Fiscal Court.

Shellie Kendall – Taylor County (including Campbellsville Independent)



E-mail: kycowgirl_up@hotmail.com
This will be Shellie's first year as a PRIDE liaison. A native of Taylor County, she learned conservation and respect for nature growing up on a family farm. She is a beef cattle and crop farmer.
Shellie says: "Education is the key to solving many issues. Each generation has a responsibility to protect and preserve the environment for the sake of future generations."
We thank our program partners: Taylor County Fiscal Court, City of Campbellsville, Taylor County Schools, Campbellsville Independent Schools and Taylor County Conservation District.

Linda Rose – Morgan County



E-mail: lrr9@mrtc.com
Linda has more than 10 years of experience as a PRIDE educator. She also has volunteered as Morgan County's PRIDE Coordinator since 1997.
Linda says: "My goals are starting the greenhouse and gardens at our schools, teaching sustainability, working on county-wide recycling, and promoting Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools projects."
We thank our program partners, Morgan County Fiscal Court and Morgan County Conservation District.

Amanda Wilson – McCreary and Whitley Counties (including Williamsburg Independent)



E-mail: Amanda_lambdin_wilson@yahoo.com
Amanda has a bachelor's degree in elementary education and is working toward a master's degree for reading and writing specialization. She was the liaison for Whitley County last year.
We thank our program partners: McCreary County School District, McCreary County Water District, McCreary County 109 Board and South Kentucky RECC; and Whitley County Fiscal Court and Cumberland Valley Electric.



Region: 5 schools compete in national Recycle Bowl

Eight Kentucky schools are competing in the national Recycle Bowl — and five of them are from our region!

We salute these schools and wish them good luck:

- Shelby Valley High School (Pike County)
- Pikeville Independent Schools
- Jackson County Schools
- St. Julian Parish (Bell County)
- Science Hill Independent Schools

The Recycle Bowl is a national recycling competition sponsored by Keep America Beautiful. Schools compete to collect the most recycled materials per person between Oct. 17 and Nov. 12. A winner from each state will receive \$1,000. A grand prize of an additional \$2,500 will go to the top performer among the state champions. Winners will be announced Jan. 13, 2012.

Learn more at <http://recycle-bowl.org>.

Clay County: National Public Lands Day

On Sept. 23, staff members from PRIDE and the U.S. Forest Service's Redbird Ranger District joined Clay County students for National Public Lands Day (<http://publiclandsday.org>).

At Big Creek Elementary, fifth graders picked up litter.

At Clay County High, the Environmental Science Class planted Eastern Redbud trees and native plants.

Goose Rock Elementary students added native trees and plants to the school's outdoor classroom.

When rain scuttled outdoor events at other schools, District Ranger Thomas Dozier and PRIDE staff spoke to several classes about the importance of caring for the public lands that we share.

PRIDE in pictures

PRIDE liaison Wonda Hammons (right) teamed with Jackson County 4-H Youth Development on art projects using recycled materials. Submitted by Wonda Hammons



Stinnett Elementary School PRIDE Club members participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Leslie County Recycling Center on Nov. 22



Goose Rock Elementary (Clay County) students Destiny Smith, Katie Hubbard and Aaron Lawson added native plants to the outdoor classroom in celebration of National Public Lands Day



Corbin High School PRIDE Club members weighted Christmas trees before loading them onto a boat and dropping them in the lake as habitat in early 2011. Submitted by Ann Hail



Morgan County: Youth teaching youth

We thank Machell Holbrook and Jesse Clinger for submitting these articles about an exciting mentoring project in Morgan County

The Youth Teaching the Youth in Morgan County Kentucky

By: Machell Holbrook, East Kentucky GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs), Morehead State University

Although Morgan County High School students Jesse Clinger and Halley Wilson, are only sophomores, they already know the importance of educating the youth about the adverse effects of pollution to our waterways and streams. Having participated in an activity that allowed them to test for impurities in streams during the summer, Jesse and Halley, wanted to share what they learned with the youth in their hometown of West Liberty, KY. Jesse and Halley are participants of the UK Robinson Scholars Leadership Pool and spent a week during the summer with the UK Robinson Scholars Program learning about the importance of keeping our waterways clean. Taking what they learned during the summer, along with a refresher from PRIDE representative, Jennifer Johnson, Jesse and Halley visited Mrs. Day's fifth grade class at Morgan Central Elementary. During the first visit with the students, Jesse and Halley provided general information about the dangers of polluting our streams as they read a short story entitled, Freddie the Fish. As Halley read the story, Jesse emphasized the dangers of polluting our streams by drawing the effects each pollutant mentioned in the book has on stream life.

During the second visit Mrs. Day's students additional students were included. All the fifth grade class participated in the second day's activities. Students helped collect water from a local stream running in front of their school and tested the water for oxygen levels, PH, etc. The students were pleased to learn the stream tested within the acceptable range leaving them to declare the stream was safe for fish and other stream life.

After the two lessons, the fifth grade students were asked to design a t-shirt logo to emphasize the importance of protecting the quality of our streams and waterways. Mrs. Day was very please with the PRIDE activities led by Jesse and Halley and said, "What a wonderful experience to see our 5th graders learning from older students that they look up to. Haley and Jesse are both role models for our younger students, and I consider it an honor for them to be teaching our students about the importance of keeping our water clean."

The Youth is the Future

By: Jesse Clinger, Sophomore, Morgan County High School

This fall, Halley Wilson and I, two sophomores from Morgan County High School who are currently participating in the Robinson Scholar program, spoke to elementary students at Morgan Central about the importance of water quality. We thought it was essential for us to meet with the youth in our county because they are the ones who will determine the future.

During our first visit, we made sure that we talked about how important water quality was and listed ways that they could take care of the problem. We visited the students on two different occasions. On the first day we gave the students a brief introduction to water quality and the importance of water to us. On the second day we took them out to a stream where they collected water and brought it back into the school to be analyzed using water testing kits. During our first visit, we read a story called "Freddy the Fish." It was the life of Freddy as he went through his watershed and all the hardships he met while on his way downstream. He encountered pollution from trash and gas and oil from the roadways. The kids enjoyed the story

and were very interested in what we had to say. At the beginning of the first class we asked the students if they knew what a watershed was. No one raised their hands. Then at the end of the class we asked the students to raise their hands if they knew what a watershed was and everyone was eager to answer, raised their hands, and quoted word for word the definition that was given at the beginning of class for the term watershed.

The second day we went over to the school all the kids were excited and ready to learn about how water quality was tested. We had them collect water from a local stream near their school and bring it back and took the samples through multiple tests to see if the water's quality was good or bad. Turns out the quality of the water was great and the living conditions for animals were fantastic. The students' teacher told us how eager they were for us to come back and finish our lesson on water quality.

We gave the students helpful hints on things they could do to make their watershed around their house better for both themselves and the animals that live in it. We encouraged them to talk to their parents about water quality and how important it is for us as well as the animals living in and around the water. Halley and I thank Mrs. Johnson of PRIDE for supplying us with the water testing kits for our project with the students at Morgan Central Elementary.



Morgan County High sophomore Jesse Clinger shows fifth graders how to test water quality. Submitted by Machell Holbrook



PRIDE EDUCATION PROJECTS OF THE MONTH

We lift up these projects as creative, effective ways of promoting environment awareness and stewardship.

Learn more at <http://kypride.org/category/news/project-of-the-month/>. Nominate online at <http://kypride.org/nominate>.

July — Eastern Kentucky University's Corbin Campus planted a rain garden, added a recycling trailer and hosted an environmental workshop for middle school students



August — McCreary County Extension Service held a free three-day, two-night environmental camp at the J.M. Feltner 4-H Camp in London for 70 seventh graders



September — Paintsville High School PRIDE Club members wrote and presented a play, "I Am the Earth," for kindergarten and first-grade students at Paintsville Elementary School



October — Lee County High School PRIDE Club shared a bird's-eye view of nesting by putting a web cam in a blue-bird box with real-time video available in all local schools



November — Jackson County Schools' Energy Team cut the district's energy costs by \$46,521 during the 2011/2012 school year, an 11 percent reduction from the 2010/2011 school year



December — To celebrate America Recycles Day, the Pikeville High School Panther PRIDE Club gave radio interviews, mentored younger students and gave out recycling information at stores



Congratulations to Linda Rose! She received Congressman Hal Rogers' "Difference Maker Award" for her leadership as the Morgan County PRIDE Environmental Education Liaison.

"I commend Linda Rose for dedicating 14 years of service to cleaning up litter, educating students about the environment and using creative ideas for schools to conserve energy in Morgan County," said Rogers when he surprised Linda with the award Oct. 31.

Linda led the Morgan County School District to become the state's first with 100 percent participation in the Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools Program (<http://www.greenschools.kv.gov>), which recognizes students for planning and making improvements in their schools.

As PRIDE liaison since 2003, Linda has developed close relationships with teachers and students, who value her expertise in environmental awareness and practices. Linda has volunteered as the county's PRIDE Coordinator since PRIDE began in 1997.

We thank Linda for her passionate service. We also thank the Fiscal Court and Conservation District for enrolling in the PRIDE Environmental Education Outreach Program.



CALENDAR

- Dec. 14- Jan. 5 Audubon Society's 112th Christmas Bird Count: Join tens of thousands of volunteers in the Americas to collect data for the longest-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations. Web: <http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count>
- Feb. 27-29 Green Schools National Conference: Denver, Colorado. Web: <http://www.greenschoolsnationalconference.org/index.php>
- April PRIDE Spring Cleanup Month
- April 30 PRIDE Environmental Education Contracts: Contract period ends

GRANTS

Captain Planet Foundation Grants

Schools and community-based environmental and educational organizations can use the grants for learning experiences that engage young people in active, hands-on projects to improve the environment in their schools and communities. **Note: Preference is given to applicants that have secured at least 50 percent matching or in-kind funding, such as your PRIDE Environmental Education Contract.** Award: \$2,500. Deadline: Jan. 15, 2012. More: <http://www.captainplanetfoundation.org/>

Wetlands Grants

The Sheltoewe Environmental Education Coalition (SEEC) grants help establish wetlands at schools and on private lands in Kentucky. After a visit to your site, SEEC will recommend next steps for your project, including a budget with the support SEEC can provide. More: Tom Biebighauser, tombiebighauser@fs.fed.us

Do Something Seed Grants

These grants are for youth, age 25 or under, who want to create a community action project or further the success of an existing program. Amount: \$500. Deadline: Apply any time, with one award announced weekly. More: <http://www.dosomething.org/grants/seedgrants>

NEA Foundation Student Achievement Grants

The grants fund projects that engage students in critical thinking and problem solving, deepening their knowledge of standards-based subject matter. Amount: \$2,000 or \$5,000. Deadline: Apply any time, with applications reviewed three times annually (next review begins Feb. 1). More: <http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/educators/grant-programs/>

RECOGNITION

Award programs for your students and school

"I Can Grow" Youth Garden Award

Sponsored by Burpee Home Gardens®, this award is for established or start-up school and community gardens that demonstrate well-developed and staffed plans for a youth-centered educational program emphasizing nutrition and food production, environmental awareness, social responsibility and scholastic integration. Two grand prizes (500 plants and \$2,500 in garden supplies) and three runners-up (500 plants). Deadline: Dec. 23. More: <http://burpee-homegardens.com/ICanGrow/YouthGardenAward.aspx>

Energy Fitness Award for Students and Classes

Students in grades 3-8 earn badges for demonstrating their energy knowledge through online and offline activities. A team of students can earn additional prizes for their classroom or school. A team leader must register students. Deadline: End of current school year. More: <http://www.homeenergychallenge.org/Registration/RulesEFA.aspx>

We Can Change the World Challenge

Teams of students with teachers/mentors solve environmental problems in their school (grades K-5), community (grades 6-8) and world (grades 9-12). Prizes, which total \$250,000, vary by grade level and include scholarships, savings bonds, school grants, adventure trips and a chance to present their ideas at the United Nations. Deadline: March 15, 2012. More: <http://www.wecanchange.com>

NEW WETLANDS BOOK

Our partner in building so many wetlands, Tom Biebighauser, who is a wildlife biologist for the U.S. Forest Service, has published a new book, *Wetland Restoration and Construction: A Technical Guide*.

It contains over 650 color photographs — quite a few from projects in our region — and drawings that are designed to help you build naturally appearing and functioning wetlands.

To see a free preview and order your copy (\$15.50, including shipping), visit <http://www.thewetlandtrust.org/wetlandrestorationbook.html>.

