

September 12, 2008
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: Skylar McElhaney (405) 702-7167

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION GRANTS NOW AVAILABLE

The Oklahoma Environmental Education Committee invites qualified individuals to apply for a grant to promote enthusiasm in young people for learning about the environment and natural resources. You must be an Oklahoma teacher, public or private (Pre K – 12), school environmental club, youth group leader, and/or organization with a youth component to apply for the grant.

Applicants may apply for amounts from \$300 up to \$1,000 per grant. A total of \$20,000 will be awarded in early 2009 to winning applicants. Eligible categories include: environmental club projects, edible school gardens, environmental education projects, outdoor classroom revitalization, recycling and composting programs. Deadline for submission of grant applications is Monday, December 1, 2008. Recipients will be selected by December 31, 2008.

Information on allowable expenditures, application criteria, and examples of previous applications are located on the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality website. Go to the DEQ website at www.deq.ok.gov; then go to the link under Environmental Education at the bottom of the DEQ home page.

Last year, a total of 23 grants were awarded to Bixby High School, Brassfield Elementary – Bixby, Mark Twain K-2 -Tulsa Public Schools, Santa Fe South Charter High School - Oklahoma City Public Schools, Okmulgee County Conservation District, Oklahoma County Conservation District, City Art Center – OKC, East Woods County Conservation District, Aline-Cleo High School, Prue High School, Stillwater Middle School, Felt High School, Turtle Rock Farm – Billings, Garber Elementary School - Enid Public Schools, Camp Dakani (Campfire) Oklahoma City, Roland Jr. High School, Ben Franklin Science Academy – Muskogee, North Fork of Red River Conservation District, Wright City School, Watonga High School, Tulsa Memorial High School, Santa Fe South Middle School - OKC.

This is the 15th year this program has been available to Oklahoma educators. Funds for the program are generated by the sale of the Environmental Education License Tag. The newest Oklahoma environmental license tag features the state wild flower, the *Gaillardia pulchella*, popularly known as the Indian Blanket. The first colorful license tag is also available. The environmental license tag may be personalized with any combination of 6 letter and spaces (subject to availability.) If the tag is not personalized, the standard prefix of ENV will be assigned along with three numbers. Applications may be obtained at your local tag agency or by calling the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) at (405) 702-7138.

The Oklahoma Environmental Education Committee of the DEQ sponsors this grant program. The Committee is comprised of state agency representatives, teachers, business people, and industry representatives. The mission of the Committee is to help the general public become more aware of actions and activities that will help preserve and project Oklahoma's environment.

For more information on this grant opportunity, please contact Ellen Bussert at (405) 702-7138 or e-mail her at Ellen.Bussert@deq.ok.gov.