



Dear Applicant,

The North Carolina Botanical Garden and the City of Durham Stormwater Services invite you to participate in an Earth Partnership for Schools Institute July 30 – August 3, 2012, at the North Carolina Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill. Earth Partnership for Schools trains teachers to use ecological restoration as a broad context for teaching and learning. Restoring a native ecosystem is an exciting, real-life project that weaves through the K-12 curriculum and includes science, math, social studies, language and the arts.

During the one-week institute, teachers are trained in the ecological restoration process. Together, teams of teachers and resource staff begin to develop individualized curricula and school action plans to create meaningful experiences for students through the process of restoring a native planting on a school site.

Through EPS, teacher teams return to school prepared to teach about the diverse cultural and natural history of their local region as they and their students plan a native plant restoration for their school grounds. These projects could include habitat restorations, rain gardens, native plant gardens, natural area enhancements, or similar projects.

Teachers who apply and are accepted to attend the EPS Institute will be provided with nearly 100 lesson plans that are applicable across the curriculum for all grades K-12. Teachers who are accepted must commit to initiating a habitat restoration project on their school grounds, work with other teachers at their schools to implement the EPS curriculum, and occasionally participate in program evaluations which may be required by our funders. Teachers who attend can receive CEU's from UNC's Friday Center, and fulfill a portion of the Criteria I workshop requirement for the NC Environmental Educator Certification.

Creating a schoolyard natural area and using it as an instructional tool is a large undertaking for a single teacher. As such, preference will be given to teams of teachers from the same school. Preference will also be given to teachers from Title I schools, and teachers in Orange, Durham, Chatham and Wake Counties.

Thank you for your interest in the Earth Partnership for Schools, and I look forward to reviewing your application.

Sincerely,

Grant Parkins
Natural Science Educator
North Carolina Botanical Garden





Teacher Questionnaire

Name: _____ School: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-Mail: _____

Summer Phone Number: _____ Summer E-Mail: _____

Grade Level Taught: _____ Years of Teaching Experience: _____

Curriculum Areas of Experience/Interest: _____

Licensure/Certifications: _____

Please describe any experience you have with school gardening programs: _____

Are you willing to help create a native habitat garden on your school grounds? _____

Please provide a brief statement of why you would like to attend the Earth Partnership for Schools Workshop: _____

Please provide a brief statement describing how the creation of a native habitat garden will benefit the students and teachers of your school: _____

Thank you for your interest. If you have any questions or comments please contact :

Grant Parkins
Natural Science Educator
North Carolina Botanical Garden
parkins@unc.edu
(919) 962-2887



Dear School Administrator:

One or more teachers from your school are applying to participate in the Earth Partnership for Schools Program (EPS) to restore a natural area on school grounds to teach a broad range of subject matter. The EPS teacher professional development model has been proven effective in increasing teacher collaboration and improving student learning. The EPS model focuses on using the outdoors as an instructional tool in science, as well as mathematics, history, social studies, language arts, art, and music. Since 1991 Earth Partnership for Schools has reached over 150 schools nationwide and continues to work to improve K-12 education by engaging students in hands-on learning.

The Earth Partnership Program offers teachers substantial support, training, and expertise as they endeavor to create a restoration and develop a curriculum that will make the restoration a broad educational resource that meets state standards. The program provides teachers with nearly 100 curriculum-aligned lesson plans, and teachers who attend have the opportunity to receive CEU's from UNC's Friday Center, and fulfill a portion of the Criteria I workshop requirement for the NC Environmental Education Certification.

If selected, the teachers will attend a one-week institute presented by the North Carolina Botanical Garden and the city of Durham Stormwater Services from July 30 – August 3, 2012. We provide guidance for curricular material development related to the site restoration. During the following school year, the teachers will be supported by NCBG staff in completing a schoolyard natural habitat project.

We ask that the following requirements be met to satisfy guidelines from our funders and our desire to maintain a high quality program:

1. Each participating school will provide land that is suitable for a long-term habitat restoration project. This project could include a native plants garden, rain garden, existing natural area enhancement, or similar project.
2. The school commits to the development of a natural area at the school and its subsequent use as a teaching tool in keeping with the school's long-range plan and mission.
3. Our funders request evaluation of Earth Partnership program activities. At times your school will be asked to participate in program evaluations and/or to provide classroom and student assessments. In no cases will student names be required. These evaluations will take a minimal amount of time from teachers and/or students.

We are very excited about this opportunity and look forward to working with your teachers and school. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at (919) 962-2887 or e-mail: parkins@unc.edu.

Sincerely,

Grant Parkins
Natural Science Educator, North Carolina Botanical Garden

I have read the above and support the teachers in their application to attend:

_____ (signature)

_____ (title)



Application Checklist

A completed application should include:

- One completed Teacher Questionnaire for each teacher (preference will be given to teams of 2 or more teachers from the same school).

- Signed Administrator Letter

- Please send no payment now. However, there will be a \$100 registration fee for each teacher that is accepted to attend the EPS Institute

Applications must be postmarked or received by fax by May 7, and should be sent to:

North Carolina Botanical Garden
c/o Natural Science Educator
CB 3375, Totten Center
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3375

OR Faxed to: 919-962-3531

Questions can be directed to:
Grant Parkins
(919) 962-2887
parkins@unc.edu

Applicants will be notified of acceptance by May 21, 2012.