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MEDIA CONTACT: Mike Settles, (614) 644-2160
CITIZEN CONTACT: Kristopher Weiss, (614) 644-2160

Ohio EPA Awards Environmental Education Mini Grant to Enhance Science Studies in Lorain County

The Amherst Exempted Village School District has received a \$5,000 Ohio EPA environmental education mini grant to certify pre-K and elementary school teachers in three national environmental education curricula. The school's professional development proposal was one of 11 projects to be awarded Ohio EPA environmental education mini grants totaling \$50,000.

The grant will allow 25 teachers to complete phase two of the "Trained to be WILD" environmental education program. Those teachers will then implement the curriculum in their classrooms. As a result, more than 600 Amherst area students are expected to participate in hands-on activities from *Project WILD*, *Project WILD Aquatic* and *Growing Up WILD* in just the next year.

The Ohio Environmental Education Fund gives out approximately \$1 million each year for environmental education projects targeting kindergarten through university students, the general public and the regulated community. General grants are given for projects lasting up to 30 months and costing up to \$50,000.

Mini grants are available for projects lasting up to 12 months and costing between \$500 and \$5,000. Proposals for classroom projects, conference speakers and other activities that are eligible under the general grant program are eligible under the mini grant program, but the application process is streamlined. Ohio EPA's Office of Environmental Education reserves up to \$50,000 each grant round to fund projects submitted under this program. Just like the general grant program, there are two mini grant rounds each year, with the next application deadline on July 15, 2011. An electronic letter of intent to apply is due by July 8.

For more information, contact Ohio EPA's Office of Environmental Education at (614) 644-2873. Staff is available to assist potential grant applicants who contact the office before the submission deadline. Information also is available [online](#).

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