



# Endangered Species Day is May 15, 2015

## How Schools Can Participate in Endangered Species Day

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual national Endangered Species Day that takes place on May 15, 2015 provides schools with significant opportunities to be involved in a nationwide environmental and educational event. First approved by the U.S. Senate in 2006, the purpose of Endangered Species Day is to expand awareness of the importance of endangered species/habitat conservation and to share success stories of species recovery.

Each year, schools, libraries, zoos, parks, aquariums, parks, botanic centers and wildlife refuges throughout the country participate with tours, open houses, lectures, exhibits and other activities.

There are several ideal options for teachers and their classes to participate in Endangered Species Day. This backgrounder provides an overview of ways that schools can participate, along with other information and how you can obtain various materials (bookmarks, stickers, activity sheets) that can be downloaded and printed.

### Resources:

The Endangered Species Day website ([www.endangeredspeciesday.org](http://www.endangeredspeciesday.org)) includes a variety of resources to help plan campus activities. For example, the Toolkit includes:

- Steps to Plan/Host Endangered Species Day Events
- An Endangered Species Reading List
- Materials that can be downloaded and printed, including coloring/activity sheets, a passport, stickers, signs and bookmarks.

In addition, the Teacher Resource Center includes an Endangered Species Lesson Plan, podcasts, teacher videos and other information.

If you have questions regarding Endangered Species Day, specific event opportunities, available resources or other areas, please contact David Robinson, Endangered Species Day  
Director: [drobenson@endangered.org](mailto:drobenson@endangered.org)



## Campus Activity

Examples of Endangered Species Day activities that teachers and their students can plan include:

**School-wide Fair**—This can include photo/art exhibits, a scavenger hunt, and coloring/ activity stations. Different classes could be responsible for specific displays that highlight local and state threatened/endangered plant and animal species and their habitats.

*For a recent Endangered Species Day, the students of Barringer Academic Center in Charlotte, North Carolina held a Show & Tell Day. They organized an Endangered Species Day fair at their school, with exhibits highlighting 44 different species from around the world, with a special focus on state species at displays arranged along an outdoor footpath. At each display students talked about their species and handed out fliers. The fair was open to the school community: students, faculty and parents.*



**Presentation**—Invite a biologist/endangered species expert from the local U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or state wildlife agency office, or your natural history museum to speak at a school assembly or to individual classes. Also, there are a number of films that highlight the importance of endangered species/habitat conservation.

*Fish & Wildlife Service biologists and NOAA Fisheries staff members made a presentation to middle school students at the NOVA school in Tumwater, Washington. They discussed specific species and presented a short class called "Endangered Species Act 101" to highlight the importance of the ESA.*

**Library Exhibit**—You can also arrange an endangered species display in your classroom, school library or cafeteria.

*The Bangor (Maine) Public Library hosted a special Endangered Species Day event in the Children's Room. There were family-oriented games, art projects, and activities to highlight the recovery of endangered species in Maine. Children could make an Atlantic salmon wind sock and a sea turtle or Canada lynx mask.*

In addition, you could participate in a local habitat clean-up project and/or visit your nearby zoo or aquarium that has an Endangered Species Day event.

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Be sure to share news of your activity for the Endangered Species Day Directory. You can register it on the Website beginning in early April or send details to David Robinson, Endangered Species Day Director: [drobinson@endangered.org](mailto:drobinson@endangered.org)

## Steps to Plan School Event

The basic steps involved in planning an on-campus Endangered Species Day event include:

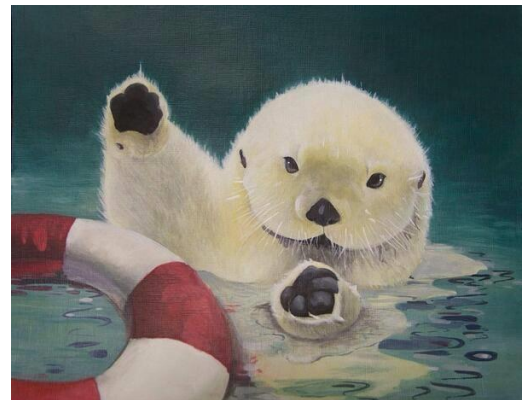
- ✓ Develop an overall concept for the Endangered Species Day event.
- ✓ Schedule the event so that it is convenient for all participants. While it is nice to celebrate on Endangered Species Day (May 15, 2015), you can also do the week prior or throughout the month of May.
- ✓ Use/adapt the Endangered Species Lesson Plan (or similar version) to provide your class with appropriate background on endangered species/conservation.
- ✓ Have students participate in the planning your school event.
- ✓ Get administration's support of activity.
- ✓ If appropriate, plan the event with one or more other classes.
- ✓ Create posters and other material (from the Endangered Species Toolkit) to promote the event.
- ✓ Invite parents, PTA to attend if appropriate.
- ✓ If you wish to film or take photos of your event, be sure to get parental permission for use in promotional purposes.
- ✓ Share news of your activity for the Endangered Species Day Directory at [drobinson@endangered.org](mailto:drobinson@endangered.org)

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## Supporting Organizations

Educational groups supporting Endangered Species Day include:

- National Science Teachers Association
- National Association of Biology Teachers
- North American Association for Environmental Education
- National Marine Educators Association



A project of the Endangered Species Coalition, Endangered Species Day is also supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), along with numerous conservation and other organizations, including the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, National Audubon Society, Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, American Library Association, Jane Goodall Institute, National Garden Clubs, Sierra Club, San Diego Zoo, Earth Day Network, National Wildlife Federation, and Defenders of Wildlife.