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Michigan is sponsored by the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment (DNRE)

WILD is supported by the Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education

Project WILD is integral in spreading the value and importance of wildlife habitat management. It was created so that educators do not have to build new lesson plans each time they want to teach students a natural lesson. For DNRE employees, it is a great tool for making sure each interaction we have with children is not only informative, but FUN and memorable as well.

Project WILD is the nation's longest standing wildlife education program. Utilized in classrooms across the US-and the world-one of its goals is to teach students how to think, not what to think. Project WILD's mission is to provide wildlife-based conservation and environmental education that fosters responsible actions toward wildlife and related natural resources.

The program focuses on providing students with critical thinking skills through the use of hands-on, interdisciplinary lessons that can be used individually, sequentially or in units. Materials are designed for diverse teaching and learning styles, and are effective for teaching problem-solving and decision-making skills.

Project WILD (including Aquatic, Science and Civics and WILD about Elk) is:

- an international network of students, educators, parents, community leaders, educational administrators, and representatives of resource agencies and conservation groups.
- a supplementary, interdisciplinary, instructional program for educators of students in K-12.
- ideal for integration into the teaching of science, social studies, language arts, math, art, physical education, health, music, and other curriculum areas.
- appropriate for use by classroom teachers, as well as resource specialists, naturalists, rangers, scout and youth leaders, camp counselors, and other non-formal educators.
- a source of innovative techniques for teaching basic skills.

- helping to meet the national objectives of high standards for all students through activities that will engage all learning styles and learners.
- balanced and fair, neither pro nor con on value-sensitive issues.
- concept oriented.
- effective methods for teaching problem solving and decision making.
- extensively reviewed, tested, and evaluated.
- praised by professional educators, wildlife biologists, parents, and students.
- captivating education-it's lively, interactive, instructional strategies make learning fun!

Growing Up WILD is an early childhood education program that builds on children's sense of wonder about nature and invites them to explore wildlife and the world around them. Through a wide range of activities and experiences, *Growing Up WILD* provides an early foundation for developing positive impressions about the natural world and lifelong social and academic skills.

The activity guide, *Growing Up WILD: Exploring Nature with Young Children*:

- Is written especially for early childhood educators of children ages 3-7.
- Features 27 field-tested, hands-on, nature based activities in a full-color 11"x17" activity guide.
- Includes crafts, art projects, music, conservation activities, reading and math connections and much more.
- Involves social, emotional, physical, language, and cognitive domains to help foster learning and development in all areas.
- Supports developmentally appropriate practice allowing children to learn at levels that are individually, socially, and culturally appropriate.
- Is correlated to the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Standards and the Head Start Domains.

The Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE), a partner and the fiduciary for Project WILD, recently received a \$2,700 grant the DNRE applied for, to align the entire K-12 guide with the science Grade Level Content Expectations for Michigan. This is an important step toward making the incorporation of WILD materials into every school in Michigan more feasible. Teachers can correlate their lesson plan requirements directly to a WILD activity or lesson after the alignment is complete.