

Entries are now being sought for the 2011 President's Environmental Youth Awards (PEYA), which recognize individuals, school classes (kindergarten through high school) and youth organizations for protecting our nation's air, water, land and ecology.

The program, which honors a variety of environmental projects, is open to students in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska through EPA Region 7 in Kansas City, Kan.

The program has two components: the regional certificate program and the regional award winner. Regional certificates are awarded by each of the regional offices of the EPA. Each regional office also selects one first-place project as its regional award winner.

Projects must be postmarked by Dec. 31. Program guidelines, eligibility information and applications are available online at <http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/peya/index.html> or by contacting Denise Morrison, 1-800-223-0425. Award winners will be notified in February 2012.

The PEYA program promotes awareness of our nation's natural resources and encourages positive community involvement. It is one of the most important ways EPA and the administration demonstrate commitment to environmental stewardship efforts created and conducted by our nation's young people.

Winning projects in the past include environmental science projects, recycling programs in school and communities, construction of nature preserves and major tree planting programs.