

Fundraising

Create or Take Part in a Special Event

You may need to raise funds to do your project or you may decide that you want to raise money to support a conservation project in your community or to support an organization that is doing valuable work. Here are a few quick ideas to help you:

- Be creative— fun events attract people. How about a “Whacky Waddle for the Ducks” race in your school or selling “Marsh Muffins”. Look around for other fun ideas. Put out a donation box at your event too—people may place extra donations there too!
- If you are asking for funds for a specific project, draw up a budget outlining what you need to spend money on. This lets people know how their money will be spent and they may recognize things that they can donate to save you money (e.g. a local store might provide drinks & snacks, a printer might give you paper for posters or you might receive items for prizes).
- Promote your fundraiser—if it is a school event don't forget the posters, announcements and web postings. How about inviting the media or inviting a special guest to take part?
- Look for organizations that fund school action projects—your project may qualify. You will likely need to submit a proposal—but this is a great skill to learn. Get help from your teacher or another adult.

On World Wetlands Day (February 2) students all over the world celebrate the importance of wetlands. In Hong Kong students performed a play to show people how important wetlands are for the foods they provide. Perhaps you could create your own celebration based on one of the Special Dates listed here or you could be involved in an event in your local community.

Many communities host environmental events, community “open houses” or other celebrations and festivals that welcome groups from their communities. Could your group perform a play or create a display to share with others?

Some communities work together to create “water festivals” to celebrate and teach about the importance of water. Could you help with one of these or create your own activity centre? In Ontario, the Children's Water Education Council (www.cwec.ca) links more than 20 of these festivals, and it provides help and a handbook on how to start your own event.

Special Dates

February 2	World Wetlands Day
March 22	World Water Day
April (2nd week)	National Wildlife Week
April 22	Earth Day
May (2nd Saturday)	Migratory Bird Day
May 22	Biodiversity Day
June (1st week)	Canadian Environment Week
September (3rd week)	National Forest Week