

10th Annual Get to Know Contest - April 22 - May 28 (Canada)

The Contest encourages youth to discover nature in a meaningful way and to then use these moments of discovery as the inspiration for creative works of art, writing, and photography. Winners receive a weeklong environmental education camp at Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, their entries published in the Get to Know Contest Calendar, and much more. Over the past ten years, tens of thousands of young people have used the Get to Know Contest as a platform for developing a passionate interest in stewardship, wildlife, the arts, and the outdoors. For more information please visit www.gettoknow.ca.

Get to Know BioBlitz - May 22 - International Day for Biological Diversity (Canada and the United States)

To Celebrate the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, the **Get to Know** Program is planning a series of fun "BioBlitz" events for kids. BioBlitz events will be held at 23 sites in Canada and the US. A BioBlitz is designed to highlight the biological diversity of a specific natural area, and in so doing develop a deeper understanding of the environment among the general public. Kids will join biologists, park interpreters and naturalists as they learn the names of plants and animals around them and take part in the unique activities organized at each BioBlitz location. Depending on where they live, kids might get a chance to try their hand at scientific species classification, photography, wildlife sketching, writing about nature, or the discovery of natural history of their area. No two BioBlitzes will be the same, as each one will be a reflection of the local environment. For more information, please visit www.gettoknow.ca/events/bioblitz/.

Get to Know International Unconference - June 7 - 9 (Kelowna, BC, Canada)

What is an unconference? It is a facilitated, participant-driven gathering centered on a theme or purpose. **The purpose** the Get to Know International Unconference will be to develop a strategy for a continent-wide effort to get kids outdoors and connecting with their neighbours of other species. **The theme** will be "Connect. Create. Celebrate." We will **connect** leaders in education, governance, research, business and grassroots activism who care about youth environmental education. We will unite our ideas and experiences to **create** an integrated plan for connecting kids with nature. And finally, we will **celebrate** International Year of Biodiversity, the World Oceans Day (June 8th), Robert Bateman's 80th Birthday, and the 10th anniversary of the Get to Know Program. The unconference will further lay the ground work for the continued expansion of Get to Know initiatives in North America over the coming years. We hope that it will be the start of a new movement in environmental education, which will empower the next generation with the tools and ideas necessary to achieve sustainability. More more information, and to find out how you can register, please visit www.gettoknow.ca/events/unconference/.

Art and Nature Camp - August 23 - 27 (Waterton Lakes National Park, AB, Canada)

This year's winners of the Get to Know Arts Contest who are age twelve or older will be invited to Art and Nature Camp in Waterton Lakes National Park from August 23-27. These winners will have an opportunity to learn about art, nature, outdoor recreation and environmental leadership. Exposure to professional artists and park mentors will foster critical and creative thinking through project-based inquiry. This year is one of celebration! It is the 10th anniversary of the Get to Know Program, the 125th anniversary of the first national park in Canada (Banff), and the International Year of Biodiversity. We will of course also celebrate Waterton Glacier International Peace Park. For more information please visit www.gettoknow.ca/events/15/.

Launch of the Get to Know Contest (US - Los Angeles and San Diego) - October 1, 4

Los Angeles (October 1)

Join us for the official launch of the 2010 Get to Know Contest at the Los Angeles Zoo. Hundreds of local youth will attend and work on art, writing, and photography entries for the Get to Know Contest; they will also have opportunities to 'get to know' their wild neighbors at the Zoo. Smokey Bear, Woodsy Owl, Ranger Rick will be on hand to interact with the kids, along with VIP guests

and celebrities. Prominent California marine artist Wyland will work with youth on their art entries. All Get to Know partners, affiliates, and sponsors are invited to attend. Radio Disney, CBS, and other local, regional, and national media will provide media coverage. A full media backgrounder and press release will be issued the week prior to the event. This event will be an exciting kick-off to the 2nd annual Get to Know Contest, which will run until November 30, and is open to all youth aged 18 and under. More details on this event will be posted daily beginning in July.

San Diego (October 4)

Join us for the launch of the 2010 Get to Know Contest at the San Diego Natural History Museum. Hundreds of local youth will attend and work on art, writing, and photography entries for the Get to Know Contest. Youth in attendance will also have opportunities to view exciting wildlife specimens from the Natural History Museum, and get 'up close and personal' with live animals from SeaWorld. This event is a great way for kids to build a personal connection to nature through the arts! Smokey Bear, Woodsy Owl, Ranger Rick will be on hand to interact with the kids, along with VIP guests and celebrities. Prominent California marine artist Wyland will work with youth on their art entries. All Get to Know partners, affiliates, and sponsors are invited to attend. The 2nd annual Get to Know Contest will run until November 30, and is open to all youth aged 18 and under. More details on this event will be posted daily beginning in July.

Launch of Natural Treasure (Canada and the US - various dates)

Natural Treasure is designed to enhance young people's outdoor experiences; all that is needed is a map and a sense of adventure! To begin, participants will simply pick up an entry form and map at the respective park; they will then set off to locate special Get to Know hieroglyph stations hidden on or near a designated trail. Once the participant has taken impressions of each hieroglyph on their entry form, they will be able to go online and access the next stage of the adventure on the Natural Treasure website. Each hieroglyph unlocks a series of challenges that provide insight into the natural world, and each challenge brings the participant closer to solving the final riddle, and unlocking the natural treasure. Along the way, participants will be able to earn rewards and incentives that they will later be able to use in a number of creative ways – but only after they have solved the final challenge.

By discovering their wild neighbors through exploration and adventure, young people will be better equipped to appreciate and respect their natural surroundings, leading to a deeper desire to preserve the environment. Natural Treasure is scheduled to launch in Spring 2010 at Cleveland National Forest in Southern California. Soon after, a Natural Treasure will launch at John Janzen Nature Centre in Edmonton. For more information please visit www.gettoknow.ca/naturaltreasure/.