



## **Hands-On Nature Projects: Making Science EASY for Staff and FUN for Children!**

Presented at BOOST

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### **Great Resources for Teaching Hands-On Science!**

#### **Websites to Visit/Register at:**

National Environmental Education Week  
Nature Rocks – Let's Go Explore  
National Wildlife Federation – Be Out There  
Project Learning Tree  
Arbor Day Foundation  
Children & Nature Network  
Nature-Watch

[www.eeweek.org](http://www.eeweek.org)  
[www.naturerocks.org](http://www.naturerocks.org)  
[www.nwf.org/Get-Outside/Be-Out-There.aspx](http://www.nwf.org/Get-Outside/Be-Out-There.aspx)  
[www.plt.org](http://www.plt.org)  
[www.arborday.org/kids/](http://www.arborday.org/kids/)  
[www.childrenandnature.org](http://www.childrenandnature.org)  
[www.nature-watch.com](http://www.nature-watch.com)

#### **Local Places You May Already Use as Resources:**

Zoos, Libraries, Museums, Aquariums, Colleges, State Parks

#### **Local Places You May NOT Have Considered Resources , But Should:**

Animal Shelters, Water District, Sanitation/Trash/Recycling Company

#### **Books To Consider:**

There are a MILLION wonderful books you could consider! A great way to make it easy on yourself is to buy any book that includes "Science Fair Ideas" in its title!

For Nature related books, consider:

Nature's Playground  
Nature Oriented Activities, A Leader's Guide (4<sup>th</sup> Edition)  
The Nature Specialist  
Creek Stompin' and Getting' Into Nature

#### **Pitfalls to Avoid:**

Don't feel like you need to know everything about a subject in order to initiate a project; AND don't be afraid to respond to a child's question with "That's a great question. I don't know the answer....let's see if we can find the answer together."

Don't try to piece together science/craft projects at local retail craft stores – it will cost too much! Craft stores are great for certain things....not for others!

Don't over-direct the investigation. Science/Nature study is best when we interest children and tempt them to learn more....not when we force it upon them. Ask more questions than you answer!