

Top 10 Apps for Taking Technology Outdoors

National Environmental Education Week's 2013 theme is Greening STEM: Taking Technology Outdoors, part of EE Week's Greening STEM focus. Join educators around the country discovering new, digital resources to connect students with the environment. Check out our suggestions for free apps:



Project Noah – Engage students in documenting local wildlife by uploading photos via mobile phone or tablet as part of a classroom or school-wide mission. A global community can help I.D. their “spottings” which in turn help scientists uncover and track wildlife populations.



Journey North – Your students can be citizen scientists, tracking wildlife migrations and seasonal changes in the environment around them. They can report their sightings from the field, view maps, take pictures and leave comments.



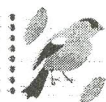
WeatherBug – Give your students access to the world's largest network of real-time weather sensors for forecasts, alerts and more. Students can check weather conditions before heading out for field study or collect weather data over time and study how it impacts the local environment.



Creek Watch – Be stewards of your local watershed by using this app to snap photos of a local waterway and report how much water or trash there is. The app aggregates the data and shares it with local water agencies to help them track pollution and water resources.



What's Invasive! – Help scientists locate invasive species by making geo-tagged observations and taking photos in their natural areas. The information students collect can help stop the spread of invasive species which destroy native habitats.



Nature's Notebook – Observe and record plant and animal lifecycle events (also known as phenology), such as flowering and bird migration. The observations also help scientists understand how species respond to environmental changes.



NatureFind – Find nature areas near your school for your students to experience and learn in. Parks, zoos, botanical gardens and nature centers, among many others, can provide places for study across subject areas.



iNaturalist – Record nature observations and share them with the online community of naturalists. Students can also keep a log of the wildlife they discover and the biodiversity they experience while being outdoors.



Google Earth – Help students explore their natural environment from a bird's eye view and compare and contrast it with habitats around the world. Layers, including roads, borders and places, provide additional perspective of the surroundings.



Marine Debris Tracker – Students can contribute to NOAA's efforts to keep the nation's coastlines and waterways free of trash by tracking debris in local waterways and submitting their data with the mobile app.

Learn more about EE Week at eeweek.org.