A Trail to Every Classroom (TTEC) is a three-season professional development series for educators aimed at providing the inspiration, knowledge and skills to transform classroom teaching into effective and exciting place-based education.

Teachers who participate in TTEC develop their own curriculum that increases student literacy skills and fosters student understanding of and appreciation for the public lands and resources connected by the 2175 miles of the Appalachian Trail. These curricula integrate hands-on study of the natural and cultural resources of communities from Georgia to Maine addressing concepts in ecology, sense of place, recreation, volunteerism and civics.

At the heart of TTEC is the belief that students who are immersed in the interdisciplinary study of their own “place” are more eager to be involved in the stewardship of their communities and public lands.
A TRAIL TO EVERY CLASSROOM

What is Place-Based Education?

Place-based education is the process of using the local community and environment as a starting point to teach concepts in language arts, math, social studies, science and other subjects across the curriculum. Emphasizing hands-on, real-world learning experiences, this approach to education increases academic achievement, helps students develop stronger ties to their community, enhances students' appreciation for the natural world, and creates a heightened commitment to serving as active, contributing citizens. (David Sobel, Place-Based Education Connecting Classrooms & Communities, 2004)

Place-based education research has shown that students who are engaged in real-world learning within their local communities have higher literacy rates and are more likely to succeed than those who learn through a traditional textbook approach. A study by the State Environmental Education Roundtable demonstrated that when the environment is used as an integrating context, students earn higher grades and score better on standardized reading, writing and math examinations.

I’ve been teaching more 20 years, and this is the best conference I’ve ever been to!” – 2006 Participant

This Workshop Series Offers You:

• A multi-disciplinary, field-based exploration of the Appalachian Trail and associated public lands and resources through different seasons.
• Hands-on, lively workshops presented along the Trail by naturalists, rangers, scientists, education specialists, thru-hikers, authors, and others passionate about the future of resource stewardship.
• Standards-based curriculum development and grade-level expectation support.
• Instruction and practice in the Principles and Best Practices of Place-Based Education.
• Strategies and resources for increasing student academic achievement through place-based education.
• Fun, age-appropriate learning opportunities that translate knowledge into effective, relevant experiences for your students.
• Service-learning fundamentals and case studies.
• 5 graduate credits offered for a fee through Shepherd University for participation and unit development. Credits awarded January 2008.
• Continued support through a network of educators, resource specialists, and trail management partners.

“Before I came I thought of [the AT] as a very individual thing. I might go out and hike on it, and I thought of it as for ‘me.’ Now it’s something that I can’t wait to go out and share with the kids, with the community. I want other people to see what a great resource it is.” – 2006 Participant
TTEC Partners:
Appalachian Trail Conservancy & National Park Service

Additional partners include:
Center for Place-Based Learning & Civic Engagement
Natural Resource Education Center
University of Maine Cooperative Extension
Maine Appalachian Trail Club
Appalachian Mountain Club
Mountaintop Club of Maryland
Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
Nantahala Hiking Club
North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching

This professional development program is a replication of A Forest for Every Classroom. Developed with permission and support of the National Wildlife Federation, Shelburne Farms, the Green Mountain National Forest, Marsh-Billings Rockefeller National Historical Park, and the National Park Service’s Conservation Study Institute.

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The focus areas for 2007 include Maine, the four-state region surrounding Harpers Ferry, West Virginia (PA, WV, MD, VA), and North Carolina. Ten teachers will be accepted from each of these areas.

The workshop series includes two 2-day workshops and a 5-day summer institute.

Local Workshop Dates & Locations

Maine:
May 11-12 (Friday & Saturday), West Branch Pond Camps, Greenville, ME

Harpers Ferry Area:
May 11-12 (Friday & Saturday), Blackburn Trail Center, Hillsboro, VA

North Carolina: (Combined local workshops)
April 16-20 (Monday – Friday), NC Center for the Advancement of Teaching, Cullowhee, NC

Fall dates for all regions TBA

Summer Institute Dates & Location

All participants

July 30 - August 3 (Monday – Friday)
The National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV

“Absolutely fabulous, top notch facility.” - 2006 Participant
A TRAIL TO EVERY CLASSROOM

The workshop series is offered free of charge including food, lodging and materials. Travel costs are available on a limited basis. Participants are responsible for the cost of graduate credit.

Name ____________________________________________________

School ____________________________________________________

Position __________________________________________________

Teammates also applying ______________________________________

Administrator’s name _______________________________________

School address _____________________________________________

Town __________________ State _____ Zip ______________

School Tel _______________ Home Tel ______________________

Email _____________________________________________________

About your teaching and professional development goals: (Please answer the following questions on the reverse side.)

1. How have you incorporated ecological studies and/or place- based education into your teaching in the past?
2. Please describe how participating in A Trail to Every Classroom will support your professional goals. Please mention personal or professional experiences that relate to our program.
3. Do you have any experience with service-learning and in what ways do you presently use your natural and human community for your teaching?

Return your completed application, including letter of support by MARCH 30, 2007.

To: Rita Hennessy, NPS, Appalachian Trail, PO Box 50 Harpers Ferry, WV 25425 Office: (304) 535- 6170 Fax: (304) 535- 6270 Rita_Hennessy@nps.gov

Appalachian Trail Conservancy