

RESTORE THE BALANCE YOUTH PROGRAM

Exploring invasive and native species
through science, graphic and language arts



Restore the balance is hosted by Great Lakes Aquarium in conjunction with the first annual Minnesota Invasive Species Conference to be held at the DECC in Duluth, Minnesota, October 26-29, 2008.

Students and teachers are invited to explore invasive and native species through an Essay Contest, Poster Contest and Field Day.

Poster and Essay Contest

Grades: 6-12

Entry deadline: October 8, 2008

Poster Guidelines—Showcase a **native plant or animal species** in your area. All submissions must include an illustration, scientific name, common name and information about the role that plant or animal plays in the local ecosystem. Poster entries may be up to 24" x 24" in size. Student's name, address, phone number, grade, school and teacher or youth leader's name and phone number must be noted on back of poster.

Essay Guidelines—Submit a 300-500 word essay that describes how **invasive species** affect your community. Student's name, address, phone number, grade, school and teacher or youth leader's name and phone number must be noted on separate cover sheet.

Contest Entries—Mail entries to Great Lakes Aquarium, Attn: Education Department, 353 Harbor Drive, Duluth, MN 55802. Contests are free and open to students grades 6-12. All entries will be on display during the Minnesota Invasive Species Conference 2008 and posted at www.minnesotaswcs.org. Awards will be presented on October 27th at an awards luncheon during the conference in Duluth, MN. Award winners are encouraged to attend. Lunch will be provided.

Contest Judging—A panel of educators and scientists will judge essays and posters. Essays will be judged for clarity, accuracy, originality, and style. Posters will be judged for attractiveness, message, design, originality, and workmanship. First, Second and Third place will be awarded for entries from grades 6-8 and 9-12.

Restore the Balance Field Day

Grades: 9-12

Date: Monday, October 27, 2008

Time: 9:00—4:00

Students will have the opportunity to attend a portion of a statewide conference concerning terrestrial and aquatic invasive species in Minnesota. Dozens of experts will give presentations on their research, management and outreach. Participating students will also explore management techniques alongside hands on training in identifying both native and invasive species at Great Lakes Aquarium.

There is no cost to participate. Students must provide their own transportation to and from the event in Duluth. A complimentary lunch will be provided.

To apply: Students must submit a letter of interest indicating their desire to attend the field day that includes ways that he/she will share their experience with peers, family, and community after the event.

Application deadline: September 27, 2008.

Selected participants will be notified by October 1, 2008. Space is limited to 20 participants.

**For more information
visit www.minnesotaswcs.org or contact:**

**Great Lakes Aquarium, Sarah Erickson,
serickson@glaquarium.org**

**Conference Administrator, Nancy Herselius,
info@mnisc.org**