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(Neb.)-Geography Awareness Week Celebrated In Nebraska Schools

By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 11/13/2012 08:25 AM

(Undated)-Most Nebraska schools will discover how they are connected with the rest of the world and celebrate the importance of geography as part of Geography Awareness Week, which runs Nov. 11-17. "Geography: Declare Your Interdependence!" is the theme of Geography Awareness Week 2012, which is supported by National Geographic and the Geo-literacy Coalition, composed of CH2M HILL, Google, Esri and the National Geographic Society.

Established by presidential proclamation in 1987, Geography Awareness Week is an annual public awareness program organized by National Geographic Education Programs that encourages citizens young and old to engage in fun, educational experiences that draw attention to geo-literacy, the interconnectedness of our world and the importance of geography education.

"This year's theme explores the fact that every place on Earth is connected to every other, directly or indirectly," said Danny Edelson, National Geographic's vice president for education. "We have systems to pipe water across long distances, we transmit ideas and cultures around the globe at the speed of light, and we transport goods and people long distances on the surface of land and water and through the air. To make good decisions in today's world, we must be able to reason about the connections that link places together."

The Geography Awareness Week Web page www.geographyawarenessweek.org, hosted on National Geographic Education Programs' award-winning website NatGeoEd.org, offers access to activities, lesson plans, games and more, relating to geography. Additionally, there's a new activity this year, the [global closet calculator](#). The site features contributions from National Geographic and partner organizations such as Esri, National Environmental Education Foundation and others. Educators and parents will find valuable lists of recommended books, videos, geographer profiles and family-friendly games.

The website also features opportunities to join nearly 10,000 geography supporters in promoting geo-literacy. Site visitors also can read and contribute to a Geography Awareness Week Blog-a-Thon, updated multiple times daily with commentary and multimedia features, while a link to Speak Up for Geography (www.speakupforgeography.org) invites visitors to write to their senators and representatives to request federal funding for geography education.

Additionally, during Geography Awareness Week, grassroots organizers around the country will host events, workshops and contests at local schools and community centers.

The National Geographic Society is one of the world's largest nonprofit scientific and educational organizations. Founded in 1888 to "increase and diffuse geographic knowledge," the Society works to inspire people to care about the planet. It reaches more than 400 million people worldwide each month through its official journal, National Geographic, and other magazines; National Geographic Channel; television documentaries; music; radio; films; books; DVDs; maps; exhibitions; live events; school publishing programs; interactive media; and merchandise. National Geographic has funded more than 10,000 scientific research, conservation and exploration projects and supports an education program promoting geographic literacy. For more information, visit nationalgeographic.com.

(Story courtesy of Tara Dunn)