



January 1, 2012

Dear Colleagues, Educators, Student Advisors, Mentors and Friends,

This past summer, I had the honor to participate in a profoundly meaningful week at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Conservation Training Center (NCTC), the Department of Interior's premier training facility, set on a forested property on the Potomac River outside of Washington, DC <http://training.fws.gov>. NCTC is an exceptional, state-of-the-art campus with access to top-rate national researchers, field experts, teachers and leadership trainers, hosting over 15,000 individuals in a variety of Science, Conservation and Leadership trainings annually.

NCTC is again the site of this summer's 4th Annual Student Climate & Conservation Congress (Sc3) www.greenschoolsalliance.org/sc3_congress from Sunday June 24 – Friday, June 29, 2012. The Green Schools Alliance (GSA) and NCTC have partnered to create this important program to empower students with the skills, knowledge and tools necessary to plant seeds of change and become global climate and conservation leaders in their own communities. At Sc3, students study and discuss the interconnection between economics and environment, and develop individual and collective action plans to meet 21c. challenges. Sc3 provides participants with the practical skills needed to support them to set sustainable, energy-smart goals and measure progress.

The GSA, together with NCTC, is weaving together schools from every corner of the nation and the world in its efforts to raise and strengthen global sustainability efforts. We invite you to share this opportunity with your students who are active in environmental clubs, science classes, recycling efforts, outspoken and involved on your campuses, in your local communities, and motivated around the issue of sustainability. These students are exactly the ones the Congress is seeking. Rising 9th to 12th grade students are encouraged to apply.

The five-day Congress will once again include renowned guest lecturers, substantial group discussions, and networking with environmental and economic leaders. Each day will also include time for outdoor programs, walkabouts, river hikes, campfire stories, stargazing, and time to appreciate nature. Last year's student cohort gave highest marks for the balance between quality outdoor time and superb presenters. They will be immersed in the program and return home with a new set of tools and a greater understanding of the interrelation between human societies, economies and the natural environment, making them an even stronger force for sustainable change in their local community.

Students accepted to the Congress will become U.S. Green School Fellows and, as part of the Congress, will be asked to make a one year commitment to implement a Personal Action Plan in

their school, home or community. They will be part of the Sc3 Corps -- a global network of "students guiding students," working together to solve environmental problems through sustainable and energy-smart solutions.

If you know of a student who is an outstanding environmental leader, a student whom you think will make a valuable contribution to the Student Climate & Conservation Congress (Sc3), please nominate them, or invite them to apply, to become a U.S. Green Schools Fellow and attend the Sc3 Congress at: www.greenschoolsalliance.org/Sc3_congress.html While you are on the Sc3 website, also take a minute to look at last year's speakers and agenda, read the nomination letter from United States Senator Charles E. Schumer, and hear what some of our Student and Faculty Fellows have shared in the Sc3 Videos.

The cost for the five-day program is \$600 including all activities, meals, and lodging on the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) campus. Transportation between NCTC and Washington DC is provided. Other transportation is not included. We encourage schools to support their students with the expense. Financial aid will also be considered for nominees who may be otherwise unable to attend.

As a result of strong interest in the Sc3 program, we encourage you to apply early as admission is based on a rolling application and we have a limited number of places that we can offer. If you have additional questions about this very special and unique opportunity, please don't hesitate to contact us directly.

Sincerely,

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