

**LEARNING TO BECOME
ENVIRONMENTAL PRESENTERS
AND MENTORS:**

**Generating the Critical Mass of People in the World
To Make Environmental Harmony a Reality**

Learning To Become
Environmental Presenters And Mentors
**Generating the critical mass of people in the world
to make environmental harmony a reality**

Activity 1 Standard 1

Sunshine State Standards: LA.C.3.4, SC.D.2.4, SC.G.2.4

Objectives

The students will learn how to become presenters and mentors to peers or younger students.

Materials

Presenter's Guide (following)

Choices for our Future by Ocean Robbins and Sol Solomon

Background

After completing the curriculum course of study, the student will be equipped with valuable knowledge that he or she can then share with other students. Becoming a presenter or mentor will boost the self-esteem and confidence of the student. Sharing the environmental information will promote the education about and importance of sustainable living in the 21st Century.

Procedure & Activity

Students will learn the principles, practice in class, and then do actual presentations to other students and/or schools. An outline of the suggested information and the presenter's guide (user edition) are provided.

Assessment

Receive feedback from the teacher and students where the presentation is made.
Discuss the experience with classmates during a follow-up class period.

Learning To Become Environmental Presenters And Mentors

PRESENTER'S GUIDE

Kids Ecology Corps Suggested Format

Creating the Conversation: Environmental Harmony, An Idea Whose Time Has Come

Purpose:

To inspire young people to make environmental action a part of their everyday lives, so that by 2012 there is a critical mass of people making Environmental Harmony a reality.

On April 12, 1997, then President Clinton issued an Executive Order that states:

“A growing body of scientific knowledge demonstrates that children may suffer disproportionately from environmental health risks and safety risks. These arise because: children’s neurological, immunological, digestive and other bodily systems are still developing; children eat more food, drink more fluids, and breathe more air in proportion to their body weight than adults.”

Training Tools:

KEC Membership Forms (optional)

KEC Coloring Books (optional)

Audio Music Tape (optional)

“7 Trees A Year” Cartoon

KEC What’s Recyclable Table

Props such as cup, water, toothbrush

Equipment such as VCR tape player and Monitor, Tape cassette player,

KEC Website Environmental Education Exercises: What Can I Do?

Preparation:

For you to be an effective presenter, your audience must be comfortable and involved. Make sure everyone can hear and understand you. Keep in mind the age group of your audience. Here are some suggestions:

1. Use words the students will understand.
2. Make eye contact and speak TO them, not AT them.
3. Smile a lot and be excited!
4. Ask open-ended questions and encourage their involvement.
For example, “Everyone – you, your best friends – has to be responsible for what we do. Who can tell me what “responsible” means? Can someone tell us about a time when they were responsible for doing something?”
5. Use examples from real life that the kids can identify with.
6. Use props if possible; paint verbal pictures.
7. Play music before the program starts and during any breaks.
8. Congratulate them for participating and answering your questions.

Presentation:

1. Introduce Yourself
 - Explain who you are
 - Talk about Responsibilities and Kid Power
 - Define Environmental Harmony
 - Define an Ecosystem
 - Read the quote from President Clinton
2. Recognize the Condition
 - Explain the difference between Environment and Ecology
 - Ask the students questions based on your talk
3. Determine the Solution
 - Discuss Commitment and what it means
 - Ask the students to name at least 4 things that make it easier to stay committed
 - Discuss Responsibility and what that means
 - Ask the students to name 3 good things that could result from working in Environmental Harmony
 - Ask the students to name 4 examples of “an idea whose time has come”
4. Take Action Now
 - Talk about the 5 R’s and ask the students for examples of each (Rethink, Reduce, Renew, Reuse, Recycle)
 - Talk about why we need to plant 7 trees a year for each person (show cartoon)
5. Enroll Others
 - Talk about “Critical Mass of People” and what that means
 - Ask the students why they think it is important to have a “critical mass of people” to have Environmental Harmony
 - Ask the students to tell you what Kid Power is
6. Environmental Harmony
 - Ask the students to think of 7 new ideas that would make life easier
 - Play music (if it is available) while they do this exercise on their own
7. What Environmental Action Will You Take?
 - Offer some suggestions
 - Ask the students to “make a commitment” by writing down what they will do, and then sharing those ideas with the class; Hand out forms that they can sign (optional)
 - Give yourself a pat on the back – You did a great job!

Assessment:

Ask the students and their teacher to fill out a brief questionnaire about how you did. You can use this information to improve your next presentation.

Learning To Become Environmental Presenters And Mentors

PRESENTER'S GUIDE – User Edition Kids Ecology Corps Suggested Format

Creating the Conversation: Environmental Harmony, An Idea Whose Time Has Come

Think about your **Purpose** and go over your **Preparation Steps**. Make sure you have any **handouts** or transparencies you wish to use.

Now you are ready to enjoy sharing this exciting information!

1. Introduce Yourself

Hi. My name is _____ and I am volunteering my time to speak with you because I care about what's going on in our environment.

(Tell them a little bit about yourself, for example, what grade or school you are in, whether you have any favorite subjects or hobbies)

Today, I would like to talk with you about some important things that are happening to our Earth. And, we will talk about how what you do affects everyone and everything else on the planet. After our discussions today, you will be able to make good decisions about how you can help our Earth to be a better and more fun place in which to live.

Each one of us has to be responsible for what we do every day. That means we have to do the right things to protect our environment and to help it get new life so that it is a healthy place to live. We call that **Taking Action!** When you take action, you use your **Kid Power!**

Do you know what **Kid Power** is? It's YOU talking and inspiring and working with the kids and grownups you know; then the kids and grownups YOU know talking with others THEY know; then those people talking with OTHERS and so forth.

Because of **Kid Power**, many, many people will inspire each other to make positive environmental action part of their everyday lives. The result will be a healthier and cleaner Earth, where plants, animals and people all have healthier, balanced and happier lives. And, **YOU and Kid Power Make the Difference!**

When our time today is over, you will know how you can use your Kid Power to have fun and make what we call **Environmental Harmony** happen.

What is Environmental Harmony?

Environmental Harmony is the healthy balance between our ecosystems and ourselves.

An example of harmony would be vanilla ice cream and chocolate sauce.

An example of dis-harmony would be strawberry ice cream and sauerkraut!

What is an Ecosystem?

The ecosystem is the relationship between living organisms (living things like animals, plants and trees) and the surrounding environment. A tree, for example, depends on water, proper temperature, soil, nutrients and sunlight for its growth. The tree is the **organism**. The soil, water and sunlight are part of the tree's **environment**. How the tree and its environment interrelate is the **ecosystem**.

2. Recognize the Condition

Do you know the difference between **Environment** and **Ecology**?

The **Environment** is everything living and non-living that surrounds us.
Ecology is the study of the Environment.

What are some things that people do that affect the Environment?

Unhealthy: deforestation; pollution of air, water and soil; endangering species

Healthy: planting native or indigenous trees, practicing conservation

Can you name 4 areas affecting the environment that you feel we need to do something about?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

3. Determine the Solution

What does Commitment mean?

Can you name at least 4 things that make it easier for you to stay committed to something? (for example: support, having fun, etc.)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

What does Responsibility mean?

Why is it important for each person to make a commitment and to take responsibility for our Environment?

Please list 3 good things that you see could happen as we work together making Environmental Harmony a reality. (for example: cleaner neighborhoods, fewer illnesses like kids with asthma, more shade, et.)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Can you name 4 examples of “an idea whose time has come”. Some examples would be: soccer, a man on the moon, sliced bread, fax machines.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

4. Take Action Now

Remember the 5 R's and see if you can list examples of each...

Rethink (what we do):

Reduce (what we use):

Renew (our resources):

Reuse (products):

Recycle (materials to recreate resources):

What do we need to **Rethink** before we buy or eat something?

Examples: product packaging (what is it made of), using recycled products, pesticide pollution, unhealthy chemical additives. Ask the students for more examples.

What things are **Recyclable**? (Give examples from attached chart).

Explain why we **need to plant 7 trees a year** for each person. Show a transparency or copy of KEC cartoon, if available.

Why plant 7 trees a year? Each person in the United States uses about 7 trees a year. That's approximately 260 million people x 7 trees, or **1.82 BILLION TREES** a year just in the United States!! If we save 2c per day, it would be enough to plant 7 trees.

Also, it is suggested that **cities need 40% tree coverage** (or canopy) in order **to be a healthy** environment for people. One tree can offset the toxic emissions generated by an average car being driven 4,000 miles.

What do we mean when we say "Environmental Harmony is a total of the simple things we do?" (Refer to Commitment Form)

5. Enroll Others

What does “**critical mass of people**” mean? Explain that critical mass refers to the enormous power generated by many people who have the same thoughts and actions toward a specific goal (like Environmental Harmony). Before long, all of these actions produce a great change in the way the whole world functions. What was previously impossible becomes a fresh and exciting opportunity.

Why do you think that having a critical mass of people is so important to having Environmental Harmony be a reality?

Can you remember what **Kid Power** is?

6. Environmental Harmony

(If you have music available, play some light music during this segment)

What are 7 new ideas that would make life easier, healthier and more fun once Environmental Harmony becomes a reality? (Ask the students to think about it and write these down). You might also suggest that the students imagine they have a super powerful computer and they can create a future based on their ideas of what it might look like.

Examples: solar energy in homes would create more jobs and use less electricity, save trees and keep the air cleaner.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

7. What Environmental Action Will You Take?

What Environmental Action will you put into your life? Offer them some suggestions, such as:

- Any of the “Things we all can do” on the Commitment Form (using less water to brush your teeth or take a shower; plant a tree; taking your own bags to the grocery store, etc.)
- Remove and properly dispose of a piece of someone else’s trash each day
- Turn off lights when leaving a room
- Implement and be responsible for a 2c/day tree bank
- Ask your friends to do 10% more – enroll them with the Commitment Form

Ask the class if they have any questions. Congratulate them on being such a fine group and for their commitment to make the environment and the Earth a healthier place.

Ask them (if desired) to fill out a brief questionnaire about the information you presented and how they liked your presentation.

Thank them for their time and attention and participation today. Ask them if they remember the 5 R’s? (**Rethink, Reduce, Renew, Reuse, Recycle!**)

Presenter/Mentor

NOTE: For additional handouts, see the KEC website

Kids Ecology Corps Commitment Form

“Why Plant a Tree” Cartoon

“What’s Recyclable in the Waste Stream” Diagram

STATE OF FLORIDA SUNSHINE STATE STANDARDS

To obtain a copy of the State of Florida Sunshine State Standards, please contact the State of Florida, Department of Education or the principal of any Florida public school.