

GREAT LAKES STUDENT SUMMIT

From May 9-11, 2001, Western New York will once again welcome hundreds of students and their teachers from states and provinces around the Great Lakes basin to the fourth biennial Great Lakes Student Summit. Students in grades 5-9 will come together to showcase their own research projects, participate in field trips and attend workshops relating to Great Lakes issues.

The Summit will once again feature participatory field trips to the Niagara Falls region and a boat trip on the Buffalo River and Lake Erie that will involve hands-on water quality testing. The event agenda includes presentations, workshops and activities designed to inform, inspire and motivate student interest and involvement on issues affecting the Great Lakes basin ecosystem. Although educational in nature, organizers are once again planning an exciting, fun-filled, memorable experience for participants. A number of workshops for teachers will also be offered.

The Great Lakes Student Summit welcomes students and their teachers to share their existing or new environmental science projects, classroom experiences and student research projects relating to issues affecting the Great Lakes ecosystem and community. New projects that are being conducted during this current school year are strongly encouraged. Topics may include water quality monitoring, community clean-ups, non-point source pollution effects, watershed restoration projects, biological field study, stewardship activities and regional historical research. Projects can be showcased by multi-media presentations including displays, posters, skits and videos. All students will have an opportunity to share their work and findings and interact with other students through "project sharing sessions".

At the conclusion of the Summit there will be the writing of "A Promise to Future Generations". The students who have learned from past mistakes and vow to protect the Great Lakes into the future will write this promise.

The Great Lakes Student Summit is being sponsored by the County of Erie, the Center for Great Lakes Environmental Education and the Erie County Environmental Education Institute, in cooperation with New York Sea Grant-Great Lakes Program-University at Buffalo, Great Lakes Center-Buffalo State College, and the Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District. A sliding fee scale begins at \$135 registration for students (\$165 Canadian) and \$150 for teachers (\$200 Canadian). The fee includes registration, two nights lodging, meals, workshops and field trips.

To receive a registration form contact: Jill Spisiak, Summit Coordinator at 716-858-8846, e-mail at spisiakj@cdbg.co.erie.ny.us, or write Great Lakes Student Summit, 95 Franklin Street, Room 1077, Buffalo, NY 14202