



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CELEBRATE EARTH DAY AT THE ACADEMY WITH HANDS-ON “GREEN” ENVIRONMENTAL FUN

The annual Earth Day Festival Friday, April 22, is free with museum admission

PHILADELPHIA—Celebrate Earth Day with the Academy of Natural Sciences, where visitors can participate in fun, hands-on “green” activities, learn how Academy scientists monitor water pollution, and get tips from the experts on how to be a better steward of the environment.

The annual [Earth Day Festival](http://www.ansp.org/earthday) Friday, April 22, is free with regular museum admission and runs all day, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Academy chemists, engineers and other scientists will bring their equipment, fish tanks, and even a fish-shocker backpack and boat out from their laboratories and explain how they monitor water pollution, measure climate change, test fish for toxins, and identify invasive species. Representatives from regional environmental organizations also will be on hand with displays, literature and calls to action for how citizens can get involved. Here are some fun, educational activities visitors can do at the Earth Day Festival:

- Bring in a small amount of water from a pond, lake or river (not the household tap) and peer through a microscope to see what’s living in it.
- Watch as our scientists dissect a 5-foot-long Long Nose Gar, then try your hand at dissecting a fish yourself.
- See the invasive snakehead and use a microscope to tell the age of this fish from one tiny bone.
- Take a walk outside with the Academy botanist Dr. David Hewett and explore the neighborhood flora.
- Talk with Academy scientists about how they monitor water pollution in local rivers and streams.
- Play a watershed game and learn where the water goes once it leaves the household drain.
- Examine a sediment core for pollutants and signs of climate change.
- For more activities, visit www.ansp.org/earthday.

The Academy’s annual Earth Day Festival coincides with the Philadelphia Science Festival, a citywide collaboration April 15 through 28 showcasing the impact of science and technology past, present and future.

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***Founded in 1812**, the Academy of Natural Sciences is America’s oldest natural history museum and a world leader in biodiversity and environmental research. For nearly 200 years, the Academy has carried out its mission to encourage and cultivate the sciences, exploring the remarkable diversity of our natural world and sharing these discoveries with the public through innovative exhibits, publications, and educational programming.*

HOURS: Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Saturday–Sunday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. **ADMISSION:** \$12 adults; \$10 children 3-12, seniors, college students, and military personnel; free for members and children under 3. \$2 fee for Butterflies!

THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES 1900 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PARKWAY PHILADELPHIA 19103