

**FINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR 'A PLEDGE AND A PROMISE' NATIONAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS PROGRAM;  
Student Organizations Demonstrate Environmental Impact and Creativity**

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## **Body**

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This year's finalists for "**A Pledge and a Promise**" environmental awards are empowered to better the world we share. From restoring salmon runs to determining the cause of deformed leopard frogs, all the programs are positively benefiting the environment and teaching students from kindergarten through college valuable life lessons.

The Anheuser-Busch Theme Parks, with partner organizations including the international non-profit Center for Marine Conservation, The Nature Conservancy, The Izaak Walton League of America, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the National Wildlife Federation and the Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute, selected the finalists in the national "**A Pledge and a Promise**" environmental awards program from schools that identified environmental concerns and demonstrated actions to improve them.

Following is a list of finalists and their projects:

Category: K-5

WASHINGTON, March 12

Project: Leaf It Up to Us, Jackson Elementary Extended Learning  
Program, Salt Lake City, Utah, Contact: Barbara Lewis,  
801-486-1221

Project: Eco-Aware, Lakeview Elementary, St. Cloud, Florida,  
Contact: Gail McGoogan, 407-891-3220

Project: Maxwellton Salmon Project, South Whidbey Intermediate  
School, Langley, Washington, Contact: Dr. Lisa Bjork, 360-221-6100

Category: 6-8

Project: 107th Street Community Garden, Middle School 54, New York  
City, New York, Contact: Marie Simeone, 212-678-2942

Project: Ney Frog Project, New Country School, Le Sueur, Minnesota,

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Contact: Cindy Reinitz, 612-665-2823

Project: Princeton Nature Trail, Thomas Prince School, Princeton, Massachusetts, Contact: Joann Blum, 508-886-6802 Category: 9-12

Project: Fortuna Creeks Project, Fortuna Union High School, Fortuna, California, Contact: Pam Halstead, 707/445-2465

Project: Reusable Resources Adventure Center -- Stars Program, Melbourne High School, Melbourne, Florida, Contact: Sue LoSasso, 407-631-4242

Project: Sperm Whale Project, Pratt Museum Homer High School, Homer, Alaska, Contact: Carol Harding, 907-235-8635

Category: College

Project: Environmental Problem-Solving Through Water Quality Monitoring, Brevard Community College, Cocoa, Florida, Contact: Brenda Maxwell, 407-632-1111 ext. 22051

Project: Students for an Energy-Efficient Environment, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Contact: Randall A. Fine, 617-493-5996

Project: Lead Contamination, Loyola University, Chicago, Illinois, Contact: Alanah Fitch, 312-508-3119

"We are proud to participate in the judging of such outstanding environmental education projects for the '**A Pledge and a Promise**' environmental awards program," said Sharon Schiliro, National Wildlife Federation. "By awarding recognition to the efforts of educators, children, teens, college students and parents, we demonstrate that education is the key to conservation -- to protect land, water and wildlife in our communities and around the world."

"Our group went looking for frogs and, instead, we found answers to an environmental problem," said 13-year-old Jeff Fish from the Ney Frog Project in Le Sueur, Minn. Jeff and his classmates discovered hundreds of deformed leopard frogs during a field trip to a wildlife refuge, researched the causes and took actions to restore the frogs' habitat. "It was a lot of hard work, but it was worth it. Not only

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did we save the frogs, but we're an '**A Pledge and a Promise**' award finalist."

Established in 1993, the "**A Pledge and a Promise**" awards program is held in cooperation with national conservation organizations to honor the outstanding efforts of school groups who have made positive contributions to the environment. The program offers 13 awards totaling \$100,000. Winners of the national awards will be featured in a CBS television network special, "Sea World/Busch Gardens Party for the Planet," broadcast from Sea World of California in San Diego during the first week of June.

Hosted by Shari Belafonte, "Party for the Planet" will feature these influential children in segments highlighting award-winning environmental programs. Conservation education segments from the Anheuser-Busch Theme Parks, including Busch Gardens Tampa Bay, Sea World of Florida in Orlando and Sea World of Texas in San Antonio will highlight endangered species, recycling and other conservation topics.

"We are honored to have the opportunity to recognize and reward students who exemplify excellence in environmental awareness and improvement," said John B. Roberts, chairman of the board and president of Busch Entertainment Corporation, the family entertainment subsidiary of Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc. "The program is a result of forming partnership between a major international corporation, national non-profit and governmental organizations."

Project entries were judged on their accomplishments in areas of environmental improvement, educating the community, effectiveness of the program and benefit to those involved in the program.

Three awards are offered for school groups in each of four categories: kindergarten through fifth grade, sixth through eighth grade, ninth through 12th grade and college level. They include a first-place award of \$12,500, a second-place award of \$5,000 and a third-place award of \$2,500. In addition, a grand prize of \$20,000 will go to the school group entry in any of the four categories that excels in overall creativity, innovation and positive environmental impact.

The Graffiti Grapplers from Anson Middle School in San Antonio, Texas, were awarded the 1995 grand prize. "**A Pledge and a Promise**" gave our project credibility and the financial support to buy needed supplies and construct a building to store our equipment," said Linda Pruski, teacher at Anson Middle School and sponsor of the "Graffiti Grapplers." "Beyond funding, winning the contest has given the children great satisfaction about making a difference and has inspired

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others to do the same."

The Anheuser-Busch Theme Parks include Busch Gardens in Tampa Bay and Williamsburg, Va.; Sea World marine life parks in Orlando, San Diego, San Antonio and Cleveland; Adventure Island in Tampa Bay; Water Country USA in Williamsburg; and Sesame Place near Philadelphia. Anheuser-Busch Theme Parks employ more than 15,000 people nationwide and are the official theme park sponsor of the 1996 Olympic Games. A leader in conservation and education, the Anheuser-Busch Theme Parks maintain an animal information site on the World Wide Web designed

especially for students and teachers at [www.bev.net/education/SeaWorld](http://www.bev.net/education/SeaWorld)

Those interested in learning more about the Anheuser-Busch Theme Parks are invited to visit an interactive Web site beginning April 1 at

[www.4adventure.com](http://www.4adventure.com) or call toll-free 800-4ADVENTURE.

CONTACT: Lynn McDowell or Lorri Eleftheriou, 314-982-1700, for Anheuser-Busch

### Classification

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STUDENTS (77%); AMUSEMENT & THEME PARKS (76%); ZOOS & AQUARIUMS (76%); ENERGY  
EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION (73%); HEAVY METALS & TOXIC MINERALS (73%); MIDDLE & JUNIOR HIGH  
SCHOOLS (72%); COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES (72%); MUSEUMS & GALLERIES (71%); LEAD (50%)

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