Environmental Education

What Is Environmental Education?
Environmental education is a learning process that increases people’s knowledge and awareness about the environment and associated challenges, develops the necessary skills and expertise to address the challenges, and fosters attitudes, motivations, and commitments to make informed decisions and take responsible action (Tbilisi Declaration, 1978). Environmental Education does not only apply a school system. Used in a broader sense, it includes all educational efforts, age groups, and communities.

Environmental Education History
The United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) created three declarations that guide environmental education. In 1972, the Stockholm Declaration generated numerous proclamation and principles to guide initial preservation and enhancement techniques. The Belgrade Charter, signed in 1975, was built on the Stockholm Declaration. This added new goals, objectives, and principles to guide environmental education programs. Lastly, in 1977 the Tbilisi Declaration outlined the important role Environmental Education has on the world’s many environments and communities.

Why become an Environmental Educator?
There are numerous job and career offerings in the Environmental Education field. In recent years, the increasing demand for solving environmental problems and increasing awareness has opened the door for Environmental Education. Through personal growth, Environmental Education can help make the world a better place.

What careers are offered in Environmental Education?
- K-12 Educator
- Naturalist Educator
- Seasonal Environmental Educator
- Outdoor Education Instructor
- Conservancy Director
- Forester
- Resource Planner
- Technical Specialist

Environmental educators are qualified for many positions and programs through federal agencies such as:
- National Park Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Geological Survey
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

For more information please visit:
Office of Environmental Education
http://www.ee.enr.state.nc.us/whatisoffice/whatissee.htm
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http://www.environmentalcareer.com/
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