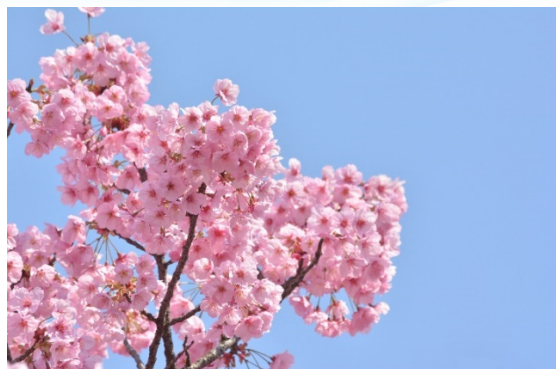


Air Quality Flag Program

SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER



HAPPY EARTH DAY ACTIVITY!

Earth Day is coming up on April 22nd - what do you have planned? In a time of social distancing, the Flag Program team has put together a covid-appropriate activity in the form of a simple air quality-based scavenger hunt. Encourage participants to be creative in meeting the requirements! You can download your copies (and share with others) at

<https://www.airnow.gov/publications/2021-air-quality-awareness-week/2021-earth-day-scavenger-hunt/>.

2021 Earth Day Scavenger Hunt
See how many of these things you can find. If you have enough people, make teams.
The first group back with photos of everything wins!

- Something bumpy
- Something that changes colors
- A photo of yourself and the sky only
- Two pinecones or small rocks
- Something green
- Two things that can fly
- Something that closes
- Something squishy
- Something that sways in the breeze
- A flower or clover

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

Has your organization overcome a roadblock related to starting your Air Quality Flag Program or as you continue year after year? Let us know what you did to surmount those obstacles. We'd love to share your learning experience with others who might have similar issues!



PASSING THE FLAG

Are you or the person responsible for your flag program leaving the organization? To ensure continuity, make sure that you have a replacement before you go, so that we can continue to share updates, new outreach materials, and what others are doing!

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Ellen Riggs, an English As An Additional Language Specialist Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, reports on her school's activities with the Flag Program:



“During a two-week period of distance learning followed by the Tet holiday, I made a Pollution Bird per the EPA Flag Program's Birds Eye View Lesson Plan. I hung it on my balcony where it gathered particulate.

I then showed the dirty bird to my second graders as a provocation about air quality. They had a lot of questions.

In PE class, students learned the EPA color-coded flag signals. Our school has also begun using the EPA-recommended language for high AQI announcements. For us, that means indoor recess.



And at present, I have a Pollution Catcher on the front of my bicycle which I use for my daily commute. I can't wait to see the kids' reactions!



Thank you for your important work. We live and breathe this air every day.

PS. The Pollution Bird is very cute and gets the kids' attention, but we decided to do the Pollution Catcher with the students because it requires the purchase and use of fewer materials.”

Thanks for the update, Ellen!

Flag Team Contacts

Beth Landis: landis.elizabeth@epa.gov
Sarah Matthews: matthews.sarah@epa.gov
Melissa Payne: payne.melissa@epa.gov
Miki Wayland: wayland.michelle@epa.gov
Ellen Wildermann: wildermann.ellen@epa.gov