

## Earth Day with the Army Reserve, Georgia

The Army Reserve had a blast for Earth Day with the students at Roy Allen Elementary school this year! The celebration began with a roughly two hour session with Mrs. Hammer's third grade class. The kids were excellent—they listened intently to descriptions of the history of Earth Day, the Army Reserve environmental program, and things that they can do at home to help keep our environment healthy.



The group asked many questions and participated in several fun activities, which included a recycling activity, activity books, and story time. Each student received a “goody packet” that included an eco-friendly chocolate bar, a Frisbee, pens and pencils, seeds, potting soil, and a metal planter. The kids also competed for prizes in a word jumble exercise in which they were asked to create as many words as possible using the letters “E-N-V-I-R-O-N-M-E-N-T.”

Mrs. Rodgers' kindergarten class was equally as delightful. Our theme was loosely based around bugs and the role that they play in the environment. The kids were each given a wind-up bug to race. Winners from this event, as well as other contests, received prizes such as coloring books and insect toys. We had story time and shared ideas about what we can all do to help save the environment. The class also participated in a recycling event and received goody packets similar to those given to the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders.





Both classes were given the opportunity to vote for a species to adopt in their class name at the Brevard Zoo. The third graders chose to adopt the red wolf, while the kindergarteners adopted the otter. In addition to the animal adoptions, ten Lodgepole pines and Douglas firs per class will be planted in the Gallatin National Forest through a donation program run by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

All leftover goodies and promotional items were given to the school's Science Lab to be used for prizes and incentives.