

Fort Carson Earth Day - 20 Years of Celebrating the Earth

Continuing its long history of teaching environmental stewardship to future leaders, Fort Carson hosted its 20th year of Earth Day events in 2008. Earth Day is celebrated annually April 22. Activities were planned for post schools April 14-17, and at schools near the Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site April 21 and 23.

Earth Day events focused on educating students on practices to sustain resources for the future. The activities scheduled for Earth Day were accomplished through partnering with various local, state and federal organizations that helped provide a broad, multifaceted curriculum.

The theme for this year's Fort Carson celebration of Earth Day was "Celebrate the Earth." Earth Day activities scheduled for 2008 included:

- A recycled grocery bag drawing contest for grades K-8. The artwork depicted the Earth Day theme. Completed grocery bag entries were returned to the Fort Carson Commissary, the on-post grocery store, for use at the conclusion of Earth Day activities.
- A poetry contest open to all grades, discussing the theme of "Celebrate the Earth."
- An Earth/Arbor Day reading program at schools featuring volunteers reading the environmentally-themed "The Lorax" by Dr. Seuss.
- "The Hands-on Storm water Runoff Demonstration." Students learned how storm water runoff behaves and interacts with the landscape. Students also saw how runoff easily picks up contaminants from our everyday environment and carries them to main waterways in our communities/
- An Earth/Arbor Day Educational Fair at the Carson Middle School on Fort Carson. There was a total of six educational stations set up for classes on the following subjects:



Grocery bag art contest winners



Chris Kennedy lectures on endangered species

The Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC), one of Fort Carson's partners, recognized the post as a "Signature of Sustainability" site during earth day celebrations this year. WHC, now in its 20th year, has certified Fort Carson and Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site's quality wildlife habitat since 1998. Additionally, students planted trees and shrubs during April and May, supporting Fort Carson's "Tree City USA" certification, now in its 21st year. More than 2,000 students from Fort Carson schools and from schools near Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site participated in events this year, representing one of the Mountain Post's most visible and longstanding community outreach and partnership efforts.



Students plant willow trees