



Jane Goodall's
Roots & Shoots

Coordinator's Celebration Guide

This guide is to help facilitate an end of year celebration and butterfly release that involves participating classrooms at your school. We want to assist you in making this a fun, end-of-year event. Celebrate all your students have done to care for the earth! Invite parents to participate as well! An environmental club, a classroom, the EBP Coordinator or an Americorps volunteer may coordinate the celebration.

Notes for the Steering Committee: Planning Your Celebration!

A club, a class, a small group of older students or a parent can lead this activity.

1. With your Principal, choose the event date and time (the week of May 16th - 20th).
2. Decide on a location. Is there a place outside that can accommodate everyone as well as provide space for the square yards of rainforest saved by students' Earth Bank money? If not, how about using the gymnasium? Perhaps near the school garden?
3. Invite teachers to display student work: poetry, art, journals, music, seedlings, etc.
4. Invite the music teacher to teach Earth's Birthday Sing-a-long songs in preparation for the celebration.
5. Invite the art teacher to facilitate art projects made from recycled materials. Hold an Earth's Birthday Project art contest!
6. Have students make invitations for their parents.
7. Plan out what you will need for set up. Speak with the custodian, music teacher and anyone else whose help you may need.
8. Ask Cooking With Kids to make cupcakes or other celebratory food for everyone to enjoy. Contact a local grocer or baker for donations. Better yet, have students bake cupcakes for the event.
9. Decide upon decorations. Think about Earth friendly decorations that will make the celebration festive. Ask your art teacher to get students involved using recycled objects.

Sample Celebration Schedule

SET UP

8–10 am Celebration Steering Committee set-up. Mark out the square feet saved by Earth Bank donations. Decorate! (Student artwork and any other displays may need to be put up on the previous days.)

8–10 am Plant seedlings in the school garden.

EVENT

10 am Students, teachers and parents make a ring around the area marked to illustrate the square footage of protected rainforest.

10:05 Principal or coordinator makes a welcome speech. This is a good time to announce how much money was raised for the earth and how much area of rainforest it translates to. Talk about what each class has done to help the earth, encourage parents to look at displayed work.

- 10:10** Invite an upper elementary student to talk with everyone on the importance of conserving water, and/or saving the rainforest.
- 10:15** Song or presentation by kindergarten.
- 10:20** Song or presentation from 1st, 2nd and/or 3rd grade class(es.)
- 10:25** Announce winners of any contests you've held. Winners receive a Zwibble!
- 10:30** The Group Sit (a whole-school activity – see below)
- 10:45** Release butterflies and make closing remarks.
- 10:50** Enjoy cupcakes and celebrate the earth!

Directions for “The Group Sit”

This activity requires cooperation! It illustrates how people of all ages, working together, can accomplish a great deal -- even helping out our planet, Earth! It is fun and usually ends in a pile of giggles.

What to do: Make a giant line of people that starts with the tallest and ends with the smallest participants. It doesn't have to be in *exact* order, but the sit works best when folks of similar sizes are near each other. Then make your line join ends so you have a circle of people. Move close enough so that each person is touching shoulders with both their neighbors in the circle. Have everyone turn sideways with their left shoulder inside the circle. Move in again, so that everyone is very close. On the count of three, everyone sits down on the person's lap behind them. Yes, really! How long can your group do The Group Sit? On the count of 3, have everyone stand up... if you are not already in a giggling pile of