

# WORLD WIDE WALDENS

Putting Thoreau's Words into Action

## Where is Your Walden?

World Wide Waldens inspires students around the world to consider their environmental ethic and discover the "Waldens" in their own communities: the places that need *their* care and protection.

## Three Ways to Participate

World Wide Waldens can be tailored to fit into your existing curriculum or program. Do one activity or the full range. It's also a great independent project or afterschool club activity.

### Environmental Action Projects and Showcase

Students share the story and impact of an environmental project they are doing in the online World Wide Waldens Project Showcase. An easy-to-use project template helps them think about the impact their project has on their community and their own environmental ethic. They can also browse the Showcase to see what other like-minded students around the world are doing. If students need help getting started – project ideas, planning, reflection while in action – the website is full of activities and tools they can use.

### Live Deliberately Essay Challenge

"I went to the woods to live deliberately..." This was Thoreau's goal as he famously headed off to begin his "experiment" living by Walden Pond. Give students an opportunity to write about what their own deliberate life looks and feels like. The essay contest is new this year and will be held annually. This year's deadline is *March 31, 2011*. Visit the website for guidelines and a link to the online essay submission form. Winning essays will be featured on the World Wide Walden website along with a profile and picture of the winning student.

### Walden Youth Leadership Summit

Also new this year: our first annual Walden Youth Leadership Summit in May 2011. A team of students will meet here, by the shores of Walden Pond, and use international web conferencing to connect with students in other countries. Together, our site team and international participants will discuss the environmental challenges we face and brainstorm ways we can use social networking and other tools to challenge more young people to live deliberately and live green!

Other resources available on the World Wide Walden website:

- **Program Activity Guide** – a downloadable PDF full of great activities and tools to explore your ethic, carry out projects, and get inspired by short Thoreau readings.
- **Meet Henry** – Detailed background information on Thoreau and his impact on society
- **The Walden Story** – An online presentation that introduces students to story of Walden Pond including Thoreau's experiment and the successful effort to save Walden Woods in the 1990s.
- **People who Walk the Talk** – Short question and answer sessions with well-known environmental activists like Ed Begley, Jr.; Majora Carter, Bill McKibben and others.

