

## 2023 FOCUS OF 2024 THE YEAR

# CELEBRATING *Biodiversity*

Each year, a particular theme is designated as the Focus of the Year. Themes are selected to reflect current issues both locally and globally. Schools have the option of following this particular focus to qualify for an additional award. Schools are not penalized if they do not pursue a project related to the Focus of the Year.

A project related to biodiversity can take many forms and is ultimately up to your team to decide upon. Items highlighted in yellow on the project ideas list align with Biodiversity Action and can get you started, though the possibilities are endless!

**Biodiversity is all the different kinds of life in one region**—the variety of animals, plants, fungi, and even microorganisms like bacteria that make up our natural world. Each of these species and organisms work together in ecosystems, like an intricate web, to maintain balance and support life. Many species provide important benefits to humans, including food, clothing, and medicine.

While Earth's biodiversity is so rich that many species have yet to be discovered, but many species are being threatened by human activities.

One of the most beautiful things about biodiversity is its resilience. Ease up on the pressure, manage resources well, give it time, and the ecosystem will adapt. Nature and biodiversity will recover.

**TOGETHER, WE CAN TAKE ACTION TO  
CREATE LASTING SOLUTIONS AND  
PROTECT THE FUTURE OF  
BIODIVERSITY.**



## MEANINGFUL ACTIONS



### *Saving Resources*

How our schools use natural resources has a big impact on biodiversity. Human consumption and other activities that disturb and even destroy ecosystems pose a threat to biodiversity. Actions that reduce the amount of resources, such as water and energy, we use can help preserve biodiversity by limiting the amount of resources needed to make new products and meet our daily needs. Consider projects that decrease the amount of natural resources we use at school.



### *Transforming Landscapes*

Native plants attract a variety of birds, butterflies, and other wildlife by providing diverse habitats and food sources. Rainscaping and gardening creates opportunities for plants to help solve other environmental issues such as storm water runoff and erosion. Consider projects that add new native plantings, garden features, or wildlife habitat at your school.



### *Inspiring Communities*

The voice of the community is powerful in inspiring change on the local policy level. Empowering students to amplify their voices in the community on issues that impact biodiversity is a meaningful way to create lasting change. Consider projects that interface with the community and provide opportunities for students to express their thoughts.