

How to get involved

Contact Stratford's Education Director, Christa Hein, for more information, to schedule a presentation, to donate, or to get involved as a volunteer or intern. (740) 363-2548 or treebeing@aol.com.

Teachers/Administrators

A week at Stratford's Sunship Study Station will address 80% of the 5th grade Academic Content Standards for Science! Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity for your students. We would love to come to your school to share a presentation of the program with your teachers and administrators.

Sunship Earth is a 5-day program. Most schools attend from 9am-2pm each day. The program fee for Sunship Earth is \$60 per student. That works out to just \$12 per day.

Volunteers

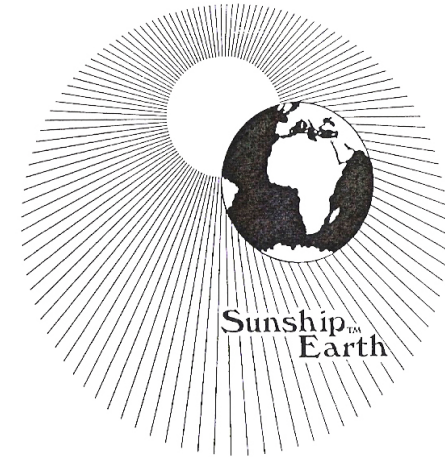
Creating the Sunship Earth Study Station is a labor of love involving the efforts of dozens of individuals. We'd love to utilize your energy towards this project. If you'd like to be trained as a Sunship Earth Crew Leader, plan to join us for training in September and October.

Interns

Stratford utilizes 4-6 interns to work as teachers for Sunship Earth. If you are interested in gaining valuable teaching experience while being part of a phenomenal program and team, consider applying as an intern. The position description and application can be found online at www.stratfordecologicalcenter.org.

Donors

The Sunship Earth Study Station, with its 23 experiential activities, incurs substantial annual expense in order to provide programming for schools. Generous donors have already stepped forward in support of the program, paving the way for years of unforgettable experiences for 5th grade students. Yet we still have a ways to go. If you have the resources to support Sunship with your dollars, we'd value your support. Checks can be sent to Sunship Earth c/o Stratford Ecological Center, 3083 Liberty Rd., Delaware, OH 43015.



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A Dynamic Program
for 5th Grade Classes

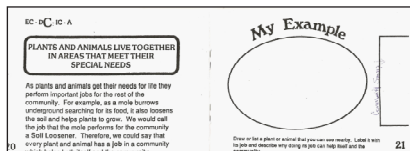
History of Sunship Earth

Sunship Earth was created in the 1970's by the Institute for Earth Education. The IEE has implemented environmental education programs in Canada, Australia, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Britain, and here in the U.S. We are excited to offer the Sunship Earth program at the Stratford Ecological Center, bringing it to Ohio for the very first time. We'd love to have you join us on this learning adventure!



What is Sunship Earth?

Sunship Earth is a highly experiential 5-day program for 5th graders. Children participate during their school day and return home each night. These 5 days at the Sunship Earth Study Station help students understand how their world functions - and to like what they understand. While addressing 80% of the OH 5th grade Academic Content Standards for Science, students learn how this very special planet, our "sunship," operates, and how we can both enjoy the ride and help keep the ship going on behalf of all the other passengers.



Using their Sunship Earth "passport," students are led through experiences that help them decipher the mysterious code EC-DC-IC-A. Each day they travel through a concept path that includes 5 different learning stations. Each station teaches a lesson of the code: E (energy flow), C (cycles), D (diversity), C (community), I (interrelationships), C (change), A (adaptation). Student's learning is documented in their passport as they draw scenarios that demonstrate each lesson learned.

Within the concept path activities, the children participate in lessons designed to immerse them wholeheartedly in the learning. Following a different map each day, they travel through the forest learning many lessons: about photosynthesis by climbing inside a giant



leaf, about food chains by visiting Mr. Sun's Restaurant, about energy loss through a water relay that creates a hamburger and peanut butter sandwich, about the air cycle by going to a city in the future, about the water cycle by becoming clouds and transporting water, about the soil cycle by having a funeral and then birthday party for a fallen leaf, about

diversity by becoming squirrels and experiencing habitat loss, about habitat and niche by becoming part of an emergency response team and saving stranded species, about community by visiting an abandoned community and attempting to fulfill all the job openings, about cooperation by searching for a missing Sunship Earth passenger, about competition by competing in a food chain game, about origins and time by visiting Mama Nature's kitchen and trying to make soil, about stages by becoming lichen and trying to attach themselves to a wall, about adaptation by becoming birds and using different beaks to drink from a giant flower and by acting out behaviors in order to make it through obstacles.

The aforementioned activities take place during the morning concept paths. After lunch the children spend time alone in nature, create natural art, role play being scientists, construct their own micro parks, and experience the natural world through their senses. In all, the students participate in 23 activities throughout their 5 days at the Sunship Earth Study Station.

The week culminates with a powerful story, weaving all the concepts together into a necklace that represents the functioning of the Earth. As the students tie their learning around their necks, they become graduates of the Sunship Earth Study Station and inspired as leaders who can teach others how to act as conscientious passengers of our planet Earth.

