

BE AN ECO-WARRIOR: EMPOWERING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AS ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS

by:

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In an era marked by pressing environmental challenges, the call for environmental stewardship has never been more urgent. All high school students, not only Science, Technology, and Engineering (STE) students, poised at the point of adulthood, represent a formidable force for change in the field of environmental conservation. By empowering them as eco-warriors—champions of sustainability and guardians of the environment—we can cultivate a generation of informed, passionate, and proactive environmental stewards.

Section 3 of the Environmental Awareness and Education Act of 2008 (RA 9512), states that environmental concepts and laws, local and global environmental conditions, best practices, citizen responsibility for the environment, the dangers of environmental degradation and its effects on human well-being, and the importance of conservation, preservation, and restoration of the environment and natural resources in the context of sustainable development are all included in environmental education.

First, empowering high school students as environmental stewards instills a sense of responsibility and a pathway in shaping the future of our planet. By providing them with the knowledge, skills, and resources to understand environmental issues, students are equipped to make informed decisions and take meaningful action in their communities. Whether it is advocating for sustainable practices, participating in conservation efforts, or raising awareness about environmental issues, students play a pivotal role in driving positive change and inspiring others to join the cause.

Furthermore, it fosters a deeper connection to nature and cultivates a sense of environmental citizenship. Through hands-on learning experiences, outdoor education initiatives, and environmental service projects, students develop a profound appreciation for the natural world and recognize their interconnectedness with all living beings. This connection fuels their passion for environmental conservation and instills a sense of stewardship, compelling them to protect and preserve the planet for future generations.

Moreover, it nurtures essential skills and competencies for the 21st century. Engaging in environmental initiatives encourages students to think critically, problem-solve creatively, and collaborate effectively—all crucial skills for addressing complex environmental challenges. By participating in experiential learning opportunities, such as science investigatory projects, eco-clubs, or green entrepreneurship ventures, students gain practical experience and develop leadership qualities that prepare them to tackle real-world environmental issues with confidence and resilience.

By integrating sustainability principles into the curriculum, implementing eco-friendly practices in schools, and fostering a culture of environmental stewardship, schools can create a supportive environment that empowers students to enact positive change. Moreover, partnerships with local organizations, businesses, and government agencies provide students with opportunities to collaborate on community-based projects and amplify their impact on a larger scale.

In conclusion, empowering high school students as environmental stewards is essential for addressing the urgent challenges facing our planet and building a sustainable future. Through education, empowerment, and collective action, high school students can lead the charge in protecting and preserving the planet for generations to come. As eco-warriors, they have the power to make a difference—one action, one initiative, and one goal equals one healthy environment.

References:

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