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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Aug. 12, 2016**

**DEP to Host Workshops on 2017 Environmental Education Grants**

*Larger grants of $50,000 available this year*

**Harrisburg, PA –**The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and several partner agencies will hold a series of workshops in September on successful writing strategies for applicants of the 2017 Environmental Education Grants.

“DEP is changing the way we administer the grants in order to fund larger projects that have a bigger impact on promoting environmental education in Pennsylvania,” DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell said. “Grants of up to $50,000 will be available for the first time this year for projects with a large scale regional or statewide focus.”

Applicants for the new $50,000 general grants must provide a 20 percent match and are not eligible for advance payments. Traditional mini-grants of up to $3,000 will also be available. The mini-grants are eligible for advance payments and do not require a match. Awarded projects may begin on or after July 1, 2017. Mini-grant project must be completed by June 30, 2018 and general grants must be completed by June 30, 2019.

All applicants are encouraged to undertake projects that address DEP’s priority topics of climate change, water education and environmental justice.

The workshops are geared to staff from county conservation districts, colleges and universities, public and private schools including Intermediate Units, school district curriculum specialists, nature centers, non-profit organizations, municipalities and authorities, and businesses.

Workshop participants will learn strategies to prepare a successful grant application and should be ready to discuss their ideas for grant funding. Applications will be accepted from Oct. 3 through Dec. 16, 2016.

Preregistration for the workshops is required and there is limited capacity. To register for one of the face-to-face workshops visit [www.paee.net](http://www.paee.net) .

Workshops will be held on the following dates and locations:

Sept. 13: 10 a.m.- noon – [McKeever Environmental Learning Center](http://www.mckeever.org), 55 McKeever Center, Sandy Lake, Mercer County.

Sept. 15: 10 a.m. – noon – [Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education](http://www.schuylkillcenter.org/), 8480 Hagy’s Mill Road, Philadelphia.

Sept. 20: 1-3 p.m. – [Pool Wildlife Sanctuary](http://www.wildlandspa.org), 3701 Orchid Place, Emmaus, Lehigh County.

Sept. 27: 10 a.m.- noon – [Benjamin Olewine III Nature Center](http://www.wildwoodlake.org), 100 Wildwood Way, Harrisburg, Dauphin County.

In addition to the workshops, DEP will hold a webinar about the grant program from 10-11 a.m., Thursday, Sept. 29. Interested individuals may join the webinar by clicking [here](https://copa.webex.com/copa/onstage/g.php?MTID=e7c1481445bfc45725693bc535969300c).

The workshops are being held in partnership with the Pennsylvania Association for Environmental Educators (PAEE), Wildlands Conservancy, Dauphin County Parks and Recreation and the McKeever Environmental Learning Center.

For questions about the workshop content, contact Ann Devine at adevine@pa.gov.

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