

Amazon Pen Pals Protecting the Rain Forest Through Education

The goal of the Wilderness Classroom is to generate excitement about preserving the rain forest. We're happy to say we've done that with our audience of over 50,000 people.

Students and teachers have asked us what they can do. For years we've been thinking about the best way students in the United States can help preserve the rain forest through fundraisers at school.



How does Amazon Pen Pals work?

During the Trans-Amazon Expedition, classrooms and schools in the United States will pledge money from fundraisers to purchase school supplies for students living in the Amazon. You design your own fundraiser to best reflect your school and student population. It's less about the dollar amount raised, but rather teaching the benefits of giving.



The Expedition Team has set a deadline of May 10, 2008 for schools in the U.S. to tell them the figure of the total money raised*. During the last few days of the expedition, the team will distribute school supplies in that amount to under-served schools in the Amazon. The participating U.S. classrooms and schools will get a detailed list of the supplies that their money directly purchased, along with photos from the school that benefited from their generosity.

* - Please send checks payable to The Wilderness Classroom no later than June 10, 2008.

Why does it work?

It's simple, really. Schools in the rain forest, even in the larger cities within the rain forest, are woefully under-funded and under-served. Basic school supplies, such as paper, pens, and books are virtually non-existent in the majority of schools we've visited during the Trans-Amazon Expedition. Often the school day is cut short due to a lack of curriculum materials.

By donating school supplies directly we will be providing the necessary tools for a student in the rain forest to achieve a higher level of education. We've learned first-hand that education is the most effective weapon against un-sustainable deforestation, the illegal pet trade, and irresponsible use of natural resources.

If we give students the chance to succeed in school, they will become more conscious global stewards.



Why is Amazon Pen Pals unique?

Developing a sense of charitable giving in students is easy. However, directly witnessing the benefits of those gifts is hard to do half way around the world.

Amazon Pen Pals offers direct and immediate results from your students' fundraisers. 100% of your pledged funds will go toward purchasing school supplies. There is no overhead, no waste, and no administration costs.

So start collecting pennies, holding bake-sales, or hosting silent auctions. The choice is up to you. Even the smallest amount of money raised goes a long way toward helping to educate students in the rain forest. And through education comes preservation.

To learn more about Amazon Pen Pals or to give us an update on your school's fundraiser, please feel free to contact us via email: info@wildernessclassroom.com and make sure to write Amazon Pen Pals in the subject line.

Amazon Pen Pals

Protecting the Rain Forest Through Education

Please fill out and return this form when sending in your donation to the Wilderness Classroom.

Teacher Name: _____

Grade or Subject: _____ # of students _____

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

School Phone: _____

Teacher Email Address: _____

Other participating teachers in your school:

Total amount of money raised*: \$ _____

Provide a brief description of your fundraiser. How did you run it?

Feel free to write additional comments on back.

Please return this form no later than June 10, 2008 with a check payable to
The Wilderness Classroom
4605 Grand Avenue
Western Springs, IL 60558