



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **BUFFALO MUSEUM OF SCIENCE TO HOST FIRST DAY OF THE GREAT LAKES STUDENT SUMMIT ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 14<sup>th</sup>**

### **Two-day event teaches students ways to protect the Great Lakes basin ecosystem**

**BUFFALO (May 1, 2008)** The 7<sup>th</sup> Biennial Great Lakes Student Summit (GLSS) will be taking place in Buffalo on May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Workshops and discovery sessions on the first day of the summit will be held at the Buffalo Museum of Science (Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>) from 9:30am until 12:00noon. Student presentations will take place in the museum auditorium from 1:30pm to 3:00pm.

This will be the first time that the GLSS will take place the Buffalo Museum of Science. Two hundred participants from twelve schools in Western New York, Pennsylvania and Canada have registered to learn about, and take part in, protecting the Great Lakes basin ecosystem.

The GLSS is an educational, hands-on event that provides a unique and fun opportunity for students in grades 5 through 8 to learn about recycling and its integral importance to the restoration and recovery of our lakes and shores. Session topics include: Exotic Invaders and how they are impacting the ecological balance of the Great Lakes; Water Quality Testing; Enviroscape – a model of non-point source pollution; a *Recycling Jeopardy* game show; How to make new paper from old newspapers, and other topics emphasizing the importance of watershed protection.

After participating in the various workshops and sessions, students will create a Statement of Stewardship (SOS) which will include what they would like to see changed or improved about the condition of the Great Lakes Basin. Students will then present what they've learned about the Great Lakes and environmental topics in the Museum auditorium. This promise to future generations will be shared with their schools, families, neighbors and communities.

On the second day of the GLSS, participants will be taking field trips around the Buffalo and Niagara Falls area to get a first-hand look at the many different ecosystems in and around the Great Lakes. Destinations include Niagara Falls, the New York State Power Authority, the Aquarium of Niagara and a tour on the *Miss Buffalo*. Closing ceremonies will be held at Woodlawn Beach.

The committee for this year's Great Lakes Student Summit includes:

- Erie County Environmental Education Institute
- Erie County Department of Environment and Planning
- Buffalo Museum of Science
- Tiftt Nature Preserve
- Sea Grant New York
- New York State Office of Parks and Recreation

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- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- Tapestry Charter School, Buffalo, NY
- Winchester Elementary School, West Seneca, NY

Sponsors include:

*Sturgeon Sponsors:*

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- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

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- Ecology and Environment, Inc
- Erie County Environmental Management Council
- NFTA
- The Knoer Group

*Perch Sponsors:*

- Institute of Scrap Metal Recycling

For more information on GLSS, call 716.858.6370 or visit [www.greatlakesed.org](http://www.greatlakesed.org). Inquiries may also be directed to Meghan Dye at the Buffalo Museum of Science at 716.896.5200 x342.

## **ABOUT GLSS**

The Great Lakes Student Summit (GLSS), which began in 1995, is an environmental education program for students in Grades 5-8 from throughout the Great Lakes States and Canada. The program culminates into a 2-day event held in Buffalo, New York every other year. The diversity of attendance has progressively increased at each event with a total of over 1,000 students from New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Ontario, Canada participating in the past five events. When students return to their schools and communities, they are encouraged to share their projects and experiences with fellow students, local school boards and community organizations. Many also become mentors for younger students in their respective schools who have an interest in attending a future Summit. A few students have even gone on to professional careers involving Great Lakes issues.

*The Buffalo Museum of Science is the non-profit educational institution dedicated to the study and interpretation of the natural and physical sciences. Its extensive collections of over 600,000 specimens and artifacts represent all facets of the natural world with an emphasis on Western New York as well as man-made objects spanning the globe. Based at 1020 Humboldt Parkway and anchoring Buffalo's East Side in Olmsted-designed Martin Luther King, Jr. Park since 1929, the Museum presents a wide variety of programs and services for children, teachers, families, adults, and community organizations throughout each year. General admission to the Museum is \$7 adults; \$6 seniors (age 62+); \$5 students and children over 3; and free for members and children under 3. The Museum also operates Tiffit Nature Preserve in South Buffalo, a 264-acre urban wetland preserve on reclaimed former industrial land; The Elmwood Science Spot, a satellite studio of the Buffalo Museum of Science located in the heart of the Elmwood Village; and seasonally sponsors archaeological exploration at the Hiscock Site in nearby Genesee County, NY, one of North America's richest Ice Age sites.*

*For further information on the Museum and its upcoming activities, call 716-896-5200 or visit [www.buffalomuseumofscience.org](http://www.buffalomuseumofscience.org).*

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