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## GREEN CONNECTION

### ABOUT "THE GREEN CONNECTION" INITIATIVE



**The Green Connection** is an initiative of the Cultural Services of the Embassy of France in the United States. **American high school students participate each year in an educational and scientific trip to France, organized around the theme of ecology.**

Participants are selected

through a national competition for which candidates submit proposals for local or personal projects in the field of environmental protection.

#### **The goals of the program are:**

- To promote exchanges between French and American youth beyond just language and culture
- To awaken and encourage the curiosity of young American high school students on the subject of environmental protection
- To inspire them in the pursuit of scientific vocations by giving them the opportunity to expand and share their ideas on the biggest environmental challenges of the 21st century
- To teach eco-friendly actions to the adults of tomorrow to ensure a healthy future for our planet
- To encourage youth participation in social issues by supporting concrete initiatives in the area of environmental protection
- To offer young Americans the opportunity for total immersion in the French language and culture

### **GREEN CONNECTION 2012: EXCHANGE FOR FOREST PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION.**

The United Nations declared 2011 the International Year of Forests. It was an opportunity to discover, celebrate, present, protect and use forest ecosystems more sustainably. We have chosen to continue these educational efforts.



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**Good Planet Foundation** ([www.goodplanet.org](http://www.goodplanet.org)), chaired by Yann Arthus-Bertrand, is the partner of the **Green Connection 2012: Exchange for Forest Protection and Conservation**. The foundation provides the teachers with the tools they need to increase their students' awareness about forest conservation. These resources are available online at: [www.desforetsetdeshommes.org](http://www.desforetsetdeshommes.org)

This material is adaptable to a variety of teaching approaches and pedagogical activities, depending on the needs of the science or French class in question. The program can also build on the extensive educational resources of Earth Day Network ([www.earthday.org](http://www.earthday.org)), an international non-profit organization dedicated to environmental education and the environmental movement.

American high school students will be then invited to submit individual project proposals for local or personal initiatives for environmental protection. Each proposal will be in the form of a short audiovisual presentation (video clip). Proposals should show the student's interest in environmental issues and his or her commitment to environmental protection.

10 regional committees (Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Miami, New York, New Orleans, San Francisco and Washington, D.C.) will each select the two best presentations from their respective regions. **The students with the best proposals will be invited to participate in an all-expense-paid educational trip to France from July 2 to July 13, 2012.**

The winning projects as well as a selection of the most original presentations will be published on **The Green Connection** program blog. [www.greenconnectionfrance.wordpress.com](http://www.greenconnectionfrance.wordpress.com)

The logistical organization of the trip will be arranged by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in Washington, D.C. This trip will allow participants, interested in environmental issues and learning French, to deepen their knowledge in the field of environment and particularly in the field of forest protection and conservation. It will also provide them with tools and strengthen their interest in community service as well as in learning and practicing the French language.



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Upon their return to the United States, the participants of the 2012 program will act as ambassadors and spokespeople for **The Green Connection** program. The returning students will communicate what they learned on their France trip in their local communities (in schools, universities, neighborhoods, organizations, etc.).

This community outreach will also provide 2012 participants with the opportunity to talk about and promote the third year of the program.

**The Green Connection** was inspired by today's youth and their growing sensibility to environmental protection. Keeping the environment safe and pristine for future generations is a major concern for youth of the 21st century, and with the education of young people at the heart of our mission, we aim to support their efforts by helping them acquire the knowledge and skills to make the best decisions for our planet's future.

**Please find below three of the selected videos from the 2011 program:**



*French Song: Help Environment*  
Par Alexa Goldsmith

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d8AjzBpgMmI&feature=youtu.be>



*Green Connection Contest 2011*  
Par Sidney Gibson

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=55iu4n-BaYo>



*Pensez globalement agissez localement*  
Par Yvonne Ploder

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cnG\\_9fDiXeE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cnG_9fDiXeE)



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## 2012 CONTEST THEME

Students are invited to submit individual project proposals for local or personal environmental protection initiatives. **Each proposal must be in the form of a short audiovisual presentation** (reporting, interviews, etc.) **with a maximum length of 4 minutes.**

The material submitted must be the student's original creation and the participant may only use video images that he/she recorded him/herself. Voice-over narration and interviews can be in French and/or English.

The audiovisual presentation must include:

- The name of the person submitting the presentation
- A description of the proposed initiative and how it will affect daily life in the community
- A demonstration of the student's interest in environmental issues and his/her commitment to environmental protection

Please note: You do not need to pay for special video-editing software to produce your contest video submission. We recommend using a simple program like Windows Movie Maker: <http://www.windowsmoviemakers.net/1>

## **REGISTRATION AND APPLICATION**

### **DEADLINE: April 15, 2012**

### **1st Prize: An all-expense-paid educational trip to France (July 2 to July 13, 2012)**

Upon their return to the United States, the participants of the 2012 program will communicate what they learn on their trip to France in their local communities (in schools, universities, neighborhoods, organizations, etc.). This community outreach will give 2012 program participants the opportunity to talk about and promote the third year of the program:

### **Other Prizes: books**

**The first prize winner's teacher will also receive a 1-year subscription to the magazine *Le Français Dans Le Monde***

### **Who Can Participate?**

This contest is open to all American high school students (9th-12th grades) who learn French at school.



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*Important Notice: The 1st prize winner must be at least 16 years old at the time of entry into the French territory.*

## **How to Apply?**

1. Teachers should post their students' contest entry videos on YouTube and provide the video links (URLs) on the contest application form. To create a YouTube account: [http://www.youtube.com/create\\_account?next=%2F](http://www.youtube.com/create_account?next=%2F)
2. Teachers must then fill out and submit the application form (one per class) by email.

**Application forms must be submitted by APRIL 15, 2012.**

*See following pages for complete regional mailing addresses.*

If you are unable to post your video on YouTube, please copy your presentation to a CD and mail it in with your application form and your check payment.

## **Suggestions for Classroom Activities**

*This is not a comprehensive list*

## **Les forêts**

**Des Forêts et des hommes, an exhibition by Good Planet Foundation** features 70 large format photographs by some of the world's greatest photographers. Each powerful photograph is accompanied by a caption that describes the content of the photograph. The texts elaborate on and examine specific topics:

- Threat solutions
- Global policies and local initiatives
- Forestry issues are documented through the images and accompanying texts

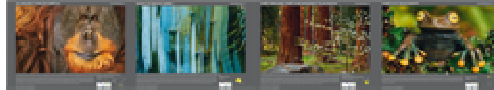
This exhibition offers the public the opportunity to experience a free beginner's journey through issues surrounding forests. The unique layout of the exhibition encourages visitors to wander through the photos and reflect on the importance of protecting our forests. <http://www.desforetsetdeshommes.org/fr>

**Good Planet Foundation**, chaired by Yann Arthus-Bertrand, is working to raise awareness and propose concrete solutions in favor of our planet and its inhabitants.



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The foundation has been chosen by the United Nations to provide material for the International Year of Forests. The foundation's website is available in about 30 different languages and includes a 7-minute short movie by Yann Arthus-Bertrand as well as extensive information about world forests, etc.



[TELECHARGER LES POSTERS GOODPLANET](#)

<http://www.goodplanet.org>

<http://www.ledeveloppementdurable.fr>

<http://www.desforetsetdeshommes.org/fr>

## **The United Nations - International Year of Forests**

<http://www.un.org/en/events/iyof2011/>

## **Office National des Forêts en France (National Forestry Office)**

[http://www.onf.fr/lire\\_voir\\_ecouter/sommaire/en\\_images/@index.html](http://www.onf.fr/lire_voir_ecouter/sommaire/en_images/@index.html)

## ***L'Homme qui plantait des arbres*, by Jean Giono**

<http://www.fredericback.com/cineaste/filmographie/lhomme-qui-plantait-des-arbres/index.fr.shtml>

## **Ecology and Sustainable Development**

### ***Home*, a film by Yann Arthus-Bertrand**

Available online. Helpful for introducing global awareness to students.

<http://www.youtube.com/homeproject>

### **La fondation Nicolas Hulot**

An educational package available online.

<http://www.fondation-nature-homme.org/outils-1>

### **Le projet 10:10**

Initiatives to reduce our CO2 emissions.

<http://www.1010.fr/general/telecharger-les-documents-10-10>

Ideas for local initiatives.

<http://www.goodplanet.org/spip.php?article338>

### **Earth Day Network**

Green Schools Leadership Center.

<http://edu.earthday.org/education>

### **RFI**

Teaching material about global awareness.

[http://www.rfi.fr/lffr/pages/001/page\\_59.asp](http://www.rfi.fr/lffr/pages/001/page_59.asp)



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## TV5 Monde

- Durban: une conférence marathon, niveau A2  
[http://www.tv5.org/TV5Site/enseigner-apprendre-francais/fiche-2668-Durban\\_une\\_conference\\_marathon\\_niveau\\_A2.htm?fromsearch=1&fromliste=1](http://www.tv5.org/TV5Site/enseigner-apprendre-francais/fiche-2668-Durban_une_conference_marathon_niveau_A2.htm?fromsearch=1&fromliste=1)
- Durban: une conférence marathon, niveau B1  
[http://www.tv5.org/TV5Site/enseigner-apprendre-francais/fiche-2669-Durban\\_une\\_conference\\_marathon\\_niveau\\_B1.htm?fromsearch=1&fromliste=1](http://www.tv5.org/TV5Site/enseigner-apprendre-francais/fiche-2669-Durban_une_conference_marathon_niveau_B1.htm?fromsearch=1&fromliste=1)
- Durban: une conférence marathon, niveau B2  
[http://www.tv5.org/TV5Site/enseigner-apprendre-francais/fiche-2670-Durban\\_une\\_conference\\_marathon\\_niveau\\_B2.htm?fromsearch=1&fromliste=1](http://www.tv5.org/TV5Site/enseigner-apprendre-francais/fiche-2670-Durban_une_conference_marathon_niveau_B2.htm?fromsearch=1&fromliste=1)
- Coup de pouce pour la planète  
[http://www.tv5.org/TV5Site/enseigner-apprendre-francais/fiche-1946-Coup\\_de\\_pouce\\_pour\\_la\\_Planete.htm?artiste=&chanson=&keywords=&fromsearch=&fromliste=](http://www.tv5.org/TV5Site/enseigner-apprendre-francais/fiche-1946-Coup_de_pouce_pour_la_Planete.htm?artiste=&chanson=&keywords=&fromsearch=&fromliste=)
- Projet écologique  
[http://www.tv5.org/TV5Site/enseigner-apprendre-francais/fiche-330-Projet\\_ecologique.htm?fromsearch=1&fromliste=1](http://www.tv5.org/TV5Site/enseigner-apprendre-francais/fiche-330-Projet_ecologique.htm?fromsearch=1&fromliste=1)
- Un jour en Europe  
[http://www.tv5.org/TV5Site/enseigner-apprendre-francais/fiche-290-Protection\\_de\\_l\\_environnement.htm](http://www.tv5.org/TV5Site/enseigner-apprendre-francais/fiche-290-Protection_de_l_environnement.htm)
- Je suis un homme - Zazie (chanson)  
[http://www.tv5.org/TV5Site/enseigner-apprendre-francais/fiche-630-Je\\_suis\\_un\\_homme.htm?artiste=&chanson=&keywords=environnement](http://www.tv5.org/TV5Site/enseigner-apprendre-francais/fiche-630-Je_suis_un_homme.htm?artiste=&chanson=&keywords=environnement)
- Événement-catastrophe  
[http://www.tv5.org/TV5Site/enseigner-apprendre-francais/fiche-336-Evenement\\_catastrophe.htm](http://www.tv5.org/TV5Site/enseigner-apprendre-francais/fiche-336-Evenement_catastrophe.htm)
- Alerte Terre  
[http://www.tv5.org/TV5Site/enseigner-apprendre-francais/fiche-1256-Alerte\\_Terre.htm?fromsearch=1&fromliste=2](http://www.tv5.org/TV5Site/enseigner-apprendre-francais/fiche-1256-Alerte_Terre.htm?fromsearch=1&fromliste=2)



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## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Your application must be sent to the appropriate regional office of the Cultural Service Department**  
(see page 8 for complete email and mailing addresses)

Your school is located in:	Send your application to:
Alabama	ATLANTA
Alaska	SAN FRANCISCO
Arizona	LOS ANGELES
Arkansas	HOUSTON
California (northern)	SAN FRANCISCO
California (southern)	LOS ANGELES
Colorado	LOS ANGELES
Connecticut	NEW YORK
Delaware	WASHINGTON
District of Columbia	WASHINGTON
Florida	MIAMI
Georgia	ATLANTA
Hawaii	SAN FRANCISCO
Idaho	SAN FRANCISCO
Illinois	CHICAGO
Indiana	
Iowa	
Kansas	
Kentucky	
Louisiana	NEW ORLEANS
Maine	BOSTON
Maryland	WASHINGTON
Massachusetts	BOSTON
Michigan	CHICAGO
Minnesota	
Missouri	
Mississippi	ATLANTA
Montana	SAN FRANCISCO
Nebraska	CHICAGO

Your school is located in:	Send your application to:
Nevada (northern)	SAN FRANCISCO
Nevada (southern)	LOS ANGELES
New Hampshire	BOSTON
New Mexico	LOS ANGELES
New Jersey	NEW YORK
New York	
North Carolina	ATLANTA
North Dakota	CHICAGO
Ohio	CHICAGO
Oklahoma	HOUSTON
Oregon	SAN FRANCISCO
Pennsylvania	WASHINGTON
Rhode Island	BOSTON
South Carolina	ATLANTA
South Dakota	CHICAGO
Tennessee	ATLANTA
Texas	HOUSTON
Utah	SAN FRANCISCO
Vermont	BOSTON
Virginia	WASHINGTON
Washington	SAN FRANCISCO
West Virginia	WASHINGTON
Wisconsin	CHICAGO
Wyoming	SAN FRANCISCO
Puerto Rico	MIAMI
U.S. Virgin Islands, Turks & Caicos, Cayman Islands	MIAMI
Bermuda	NEW YORK

***If you have any questions, please email:***  
[scule.washington-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:scule.washington-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr)



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