Lake Superior Youth Symposium
1995-2007

Joan Chadde (jchadde@mtu.edu), 2001 Symposium Host
Western U.P. Center for Science, Mathematics & Environmental Education
Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI

Doug Jones, 2005 Symposium Coordinator
Sir Winston Churchill Collegiate and Vocational Institute, Thunder Bay, ON
Email: dougyjones@shaw.ca

Symposium Website: www.wupcenter.mtu.edu
Symposium Purpose

Inspire and motivate students to become stewards of the Great Lakes
History

1995 ~ Northland College, Ashland, WI
   (80 participants)

   (100 participants)

1999 ~ Lake Superior Center, Duluth, MN
   (160 participants)

2001 ~ Michigan Tech University, Houghton, MI
   (393 participants--38 schools/groups from more than 70 communities...)
History cont’d.

2003 ~ Northland College
       Ashland, WI (160)

2005 ~ Sir Winston Churchill CVI (150)
       Thunder Bay, ON

2007 ~ Seaborg Center, Northern Michigan
       University at Big Bay, MI (160)

2009 ~ Minnesota or Wisconsin ???
Symposium Program Components

- Student-Created Projects - art, poetry, science projects, quiz bowl
- Model Student Group Presentations
- Field trips
- Presentations
- Student TEAMs
- Evening programs: speakers, dance, Rendez-Vous, recreation
Something for Everyone!
Very Interdisciplinary

- History
- Art
- Writing
- Science
- Math
- Social Studies
- Music
Student-Created Projects

- Artwork
- Scientific Research
- Issues Forum
- Poetry
- Great Lakes Quiz Bowl
Model Student Group Presentations

Buckley High School - MI
Sanilac Co. Math/Sci Center - MI
Bothwell Middle School - MI
Great Lakes Aquarium - MN
White Pines C & VS - ON
Michipicoten H.S. - ON
Anoka H.S. - MN
Exciting Field Trips to “Experience” Lake Superior Environments

Forests & Trails
Frogs As Bioindicators
Fisheries Biologist For A Day
Collecting Copper in the Keweenaw
Cultural & Environmental Legacy of Lake Superior Copper Mining
Students formed TEAMs:
Together Everyone Accomplishes More
Motivational speakers -
Tom Baldini, IJC

Interact with experts

Fun!!!

Shared responsibility
Youth Symposium Outcomes

- Increased awareness of Great Lakes issues.
- Meet new people & learn from them.
- Share new ideas
- Hear different perspectives
- Learn about my region
- Learn about problems in other areas.
- Hands-on experiences
- Canadian-U.S. connection
- 95% of participants want to attend next symposium!!
Overall, what do you feel you gained most by attending?

Students' Comments

- We need to protect the lake.
- New ways I can help protect the lake.
- How much people care about our lakes.
- Respect for other people.
- People need to work together as a group to protect the Great Lakes.
When you return home, which activities do you plan to do as a result of the symposium? (241 responses)

86% Tell my family about what I learned.

71% Tell my friends about what I learned.

59% Tell my teachers about what I learned.

56% Continue learning about the Great Lakes.

44% Get involved in efforts to protect Lake Superior (and other Great Lakes).

78% Be careful that my activities don’t cause water pollution.

70% Continue to communicate with the friends that I met at the symposium.
Other activities that I might do:

- Make others aware of pollution in Lake Superior.
- Pick up garbage from the beach.
- Get involved with groups who help keep the Great Lakes clean.
- Tell my community what I learned.
- Reduce my water use.
- Cherish the lake.
Overall, what do you feel you gained most by attending?

Teachers’ Comments

- Awareness of many diverse issues.
- Meeting and getting ideas from other teachers.
- Become more familiar with Lake Superior.
- Re-energized!
Unique Features of Symposium

- Model Student Groups
- Student-Created Projects
- Student TEAMs
- Broad-based community involvement --- funders & presenters
- Well-documented outcomes
Symposium Follow-up

Symposium website posts students’ follow-up activities.

Lake Linden-Hubbell High Schools students conduct beach clean up in September 07.
Symposium Follow-up

Copper Country Home School Group did storm drain stenciling.
Symposium Follow-up

- Gwinn Area Students create educational flyers
How Can Water Pollution Affect You?

When the groundwater is polluted, all those who draw water from the aquifer* can and will become sick. In many cases the health costs are extremely high! During the time in which your well is contaminated you must also get water form another source, most often this is bottled water from the store.

Although the contaminated water in the aquifer will eventually will leave your well: it will flow elsewhere to contaminate other people’s wells. The amount of money spent to fix these problems is astounding and could have been easily avoided by properly disposing your trash.

*Aquifer: an area underground from which water can be pumped from for drinking

Water Pollution Concerns in Lake Superior’s Watershed

The above map displays areas of concern around Lake Superior due to contaminated runoff from industries and other various pollution sources.

During our 8th Grade Trash Bash, at Gwinn Middle School, we cleaned up 15,149 pounds of trash off of our *watershed. This in turn saved hundreds of people and wildlife, alike, form being negatively affected later on in time.

*Watershed: an area of land whose runoff flows into rivers and water systems

How can you Help Stop Water Pollution

Always dispose of your trash appropriately! Whenever possible reduce, reuse, and recycle. Just by doing these things you will help save the environment for generations to come by preserving the Earth we have now.
Discussion Topics:

Need 2009 Symposium Host

Need to points of contact in WI and MN

Need to institutionalize the Lake Superior Youth Symposium