



WHERE TO FLY YOUR FLAGS?

Getting permission to use the main flagpole is not always easy, or possible. But there are alternatives, as Gretchen Stewart Children's Health & Schools, EPA Region 10, shared with us recently.

"Here's a photo of our B2 Flag Program garden banner flags. Schools wanted a flag that could be easily moved to different locations on the school property rather than on the school's flagpole. Also, some schools have a policy that only certain flags can be on the flagpole or the number of flags on the pole. We do not supply the garden flagpole."



In a similar vein, before Covid hit and we were still doing our outreach at conferences, my hubby and I built a Flags stand-up display for the March 2020 Green Schools Conference. I thought you may wish to see the display and how we used it. This will be used again in the future at other conferences when we are back in action!"

MAROON FLAGS= HAZARDOUS AQ

As wildfires continue to become more frequent and widespread, communities now have an unfortunate need for the maroon flag, which signifies the most hazardous air quality conditions.

To order a maroon flag, go to www.airnow.gov/flag, click on "Four Steps" and then "Flag Ordering Tips," or do an online search for Brick Red flags.

CONNECTING THROUGH LIBRARIES – NEZ PERCE OUTREACH



A lot of air quality outreach has been happening on the Nez Perce Reservation in Idaho over the past couple of months. They are launching a Sensor Project and Flag Program at the public libraries with support from EPA Region 10. The new program, which began in June 2021, provides free air sensors at the nine public libraries on the Nez Perce Reservation.

Library staff receive training on air quality, how to use the air sensors, and access to educational activities. Library patrons, who interact with the air sensors, will be able to give feedback on their

experience to help shape future air sensor loan programs. This pilot will help other communities nationwide to start similar programs.

Johna Boulafentis, an Environmental Outreach Specialist with the Nez Perce Tribe ERWM Air Quality Program, elaborates:

“We tried a few years ago to get some schools involved and there was initial ‘yes, let’s do it’ but when the time came, it didn’t really work out. That year was a surprisingly low wildfire smoke season, so I think that was part of it. Plus, schoolteachers have so much on their plates.

In the last six months, we’ve met multiple times now with our libraries and it’s going to be an awesome fit. The libraries are located in small, rural towns on or near their “Main Street,” so we hope for some good interaction with the public. As we continue our work with schools, we can promote the Flag Program and encourage everyone to visit their public library. Win Win!!

P.S We’re so thankful for the flag program and that we launched in June. The wildfire season began about 4 to 6 weeks early and the libraries are changing their flags, sharing on their social media, and answering questions from the public.”

For more information, go to <https://www.epa.gov/innovation/region-10-demonstration-tribal-air-sensor-loan-program> .

THE PRESIDENT’S ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH AWARD (PEYA)

Are you looking for new ways to involve your students- or a particular student- in environmental efforts? Check out the President’s Environmental Youth Award. Since 1971, the President has joined EPA to recognize young people for protecting US air, water, land, and ecology.



Each year the PEYA program honors a wide variety of projects developed by young individuals, school classes (K-12), summer camps, public interest groups, and youth organizations to promote environmental awareness and action. Winning projects in the past have demonstrated impact in schools and communities in a diverse range of subject areas. For more information go to: <https://www.epa.gov/education/presidents-environmental-youth-award>

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Nez Perce Air Quality Poster