The History of Project WILD

Where we came from and where we are going....
Project WILD Timeline

1970  The Western Regional Environmental Education Council, Inc. (WREEC) is founded to create a partnership and network between education and natural resource professionals.

1979  Project WILD (Wildlife in Learning Design) conceived at WREEC annual meeting.

1980  WREEC contracted by 12 WAFWA states to develop Project WILD.

1981-82 Development, testing and revision of Project WILD begins.

1983  Project WILD Elementary Activity premieres in 20 states.


1986  39 state sponsors; development of Project WILD Aquatic Education Activity Guide.

1987  Project WILD Aquatic Education Activity Guide released.
1988  5th Anniversary! 41 state sponsors actively conducting Project WILD workshops, and program is initiated in India.

1990  Project WILD now reaching 49 sponsors.

1991  President's Environmental and Conservation Challenge Award received. Project WILD now reaching all 50 states, plus six national and five international sponsors, including Sweden.


1993  10th Anniversary! WILD School Sites released.

1994  Exploring School Nature Areas (video) and WILD About Elk released.

1996  WREEC transitions to CEE and a new National Board of Directors is established.

2000  Updates of WILD and Aquatic WILD including 25 new activities and new learning framework released.


2003  20th Anniversary! Since 1983, over 900,000 educators and 48 million youth have participated in Project WILD programming. Fifty state sponsors plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico; additional countries including Canada, Czech Republic, Iceland, India, Japan and Sweden sponsor the program.


2006  One million educators trained!

2017 CEE dissolves and Project WILD national leadership is turned over to The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AWFA)
Project WILD Comes to Florida

1980-81 WILD came to Florida via Dale Crider, Wildlife Biologist for the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission and now a WILD musician.

1982 First Florida Project WILD coordinator

1986 First Leadership workshop was held and volunteer facilitators were trained.

1989 First Call of the WILD was held.

1990 Handbook to Schoolyard Plants and Animals was developed through a Nongame Wildlife Program grant

1992 Schoolyard Activities and Ecology, companion to the Handbook, was developed through a Nongame Wildlife Program grant

1995 Schoolyard Ecosystems of Florida developed

1999 Florida Black Bear was developed in partnership with Defenders of Wildlife
Florida Project WILD Network

Students

Formal and Nonformal Educators

Facilitators

Florida WILD Coordinator

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) Project WILD Director Washington DC

Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network (FYCCN)

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)