

Bridging the Generation Gap through Environmental Education

Kay Grabow's 4th grade class at Thomas Paine Elementary School
Champaign, Illinois

Introduction to Stewardship Project

This class wrote and performed a skit called "Aqua Cops Invader" for a group of residents at the Heartland Health Care Center.

Objectives

The skit intended to educate students and the Champaign-Urbana community about aquatic invasive species and the harm that they cause to native species and ecosystems.

Student Activities

The cast was made up of four invaders, four "Aqua Cops" and two characters that may have spread invasive species (SCUBA diver and fish tank owner). Each student researched his or her part so that the script would be accurate and educational. Each student wrote his or her own lines and actions in the script. The students memorized the skit and practiced it several times to have the best performance possible. The students that did not want to have a speaking part helped to make the set and props for the skit.

Outcome/Impact of the Project

The students were able to perform their skit for a group of elderly residents from the Heartland Health Care Center. Not only did the students learn about aquatic invasive species, but also they were able to teach an older generation about a pressing environmental issue. the skit reached a large audience, as the News-Gazette, parents, university advisors, and patrons of the Orpheum Children's Science Museum attended the skit. Additionally, since the skit is posted on the "Nab the Aquatic Invader" website, other students can watch it and learn about aquatic invasive species.



"WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!!"