



**Peninsula Office:**  
3921 East Bayshore Road  
Palo Alto, CA 94303  
650-961-0545  
(Fax) 650-961-0548

**South Bay Office:**  
4020 Moorpark Ave.  
San Jose, CA 95117  
408-244-2449

[www.EVols.org](http://www.EVols.org)

Contact:	Allan Berkowitz Executive Director Environmental Volunteers (650) 961-0545 x 333	Carol Broadbent Fields Board Member Environmental Volunteers (650) 321-3098
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## **Toyota USA Foundation Awards Grant to Support Environmental Volunteers' Science Programs**

### ***Large Corporate Grant Supports Environmental Education Nonprofit***

Palo Alto, CA – July 15, 2008 – Environmental Volunteers (The EV), a 36-year-old science education non-profit, announced today that it has been awarded a 3-year grant totaling \$146,250 from the Toyota USA Foundation. This award is the largest corporate grant in the EV's history, and will support environmental science programs at 60 schools in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. The EV trains hundreds of volunteers to deliver hands-on science programs to more than 10,000 elementary and middle school students annually. Information about the EV's science programs is available at [www.EVols.org](http://www.EVols.org).

“Our science programs are so popular that we sold out for the 2008-2009 school year in less than one hour, a new record,” explained Allan Berkowitz, Executive Director. “Unfortunately, we turned away hundreds of teachers who requested our trained volunteers in their classrooms, so we value the support of Toyota USA Foundation to help us grow to reach more children,” he said.

The new grant, called *Kids-In-Nature: Explorations in Environmental Science*, supports the EV's focus on growth through a new delivery model that achieves improved student learning through “educating for depth,” a model the EV tested in a 3-year pilot program and assessed through an independent evaluation.

The EV has also announced plans for expansion to a new location called the EcoCenter. At its community fundraiser held June 1<sup>st</sup>, the EV kicked off the public phase of a \$4 million capital campaign to restore the historic Sea Scout building, located in the Palo Alto Baylands Nature Preserve. The EcoCenter will be ideally situated at this popular destination for nature enthusiasts from across the Bay Area. Moving to this building, which will be restored with sustainable construction, will help the EV inspire environmental stewardship in more children by helping it reach greater numbers of volunteers and community supporters. The EV said it had already raised more than \$2 million toward the EcoCenter Campaign, which will fund building restoration and new science programs.

Currently, approximately 190 volunteers undergo the EV's San Jose State University-accredited training to enable them to serve Bay Area classroom teachers. The EV delivers programs in eight different natural science subjects such as "Baylands Ecology" and "Nature in Your Neighborhood." A ninth subject, entitled "Energy and Natural Resources" will be launched early next year.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the Environmental Volunteers' EcoCenter Campaign can contact Susan Hansen, board member and co-chair of the campaign at (650) 493-2095. Anyone interested in learning about becoming an Environmental Volunteer for a Bay Area classroom can contact Nicole Wilson, Coordinator of Volunteers at [nicole@evols.org](mailto:nicole@evols.org) or (650) 961-0545.

Founded in 1972, Environmental Volunteers is dedicated to promoting an understanding of, and responsibility for the environment through hands-on science education. In 2003, Environmental Volunteers, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was a recipient of the California Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award in Children's Environmental Education. To learn more about Environmental Volunteers, please visit [www.evols.org](http://www.evols.org).

The Toyota USA Foundation is a \$100 million charitable endowment created to support education programs serving kindergarten through 12th grade students and their teachers in the United States, with an emphasis on mathematics, science and environmental science. For additional information about the Toyota USA Foundation, visit [www.toyota.com/foundation](http://www.toyota.com/foundation).

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