



Participate in Biosphere Challenge 2019

-a challenge for elementary schools in UNESCO Biosphere Reserves

Theme: Our Best Environmental Action

We are all unique and our capacities and needs differ in different parts of the world. The most urgent need for someone might be less important for someone else. This is why this year's Biosphere Challenge is focusing on what is of highest relevance for you and how your action can create ripples on the water.

When you accept the Biosphere Challenge of 2019, you choose your own activity based on its relevance to have high environmental impact. Perhaps you choose to recycle more materials used in your school, to lower your usage of energy, to make efforts to increase biodiversity in the school yard, you may arrange a plastic clean-up day on the beach, or a fair for trading out-grown clothes. Perhaps you are already taking great action for environmental benefit. Use your creativity to make it more fun! We would love to hear about your innovative ideas. There are many possibilities and you decide what Action gives the most positive environmental impact. Your chosen activity may inspire other to also take action, surely an added benefit!

Schools in UNESCO Biosphere Reserves around the world are invited participate and to inspire others with their best activity for environmental benefit.

Why a Biosphere Challenge?

All people living in a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve have a special opportunity to showcase good examples of sustainable ways of living in harmony with our planet Earth.

The first Biosphere Challenge was initiated in 2015 by Biosphere Reserve Lake Vänern Archipelago in Sweden and Lake Vänern Museum. It is a challenge for elementary schools in UNESCO Biosphere Reserves. The purpose of the Biosphere Challenge is to



show the effects of many people working together towards a common goal. Together we can create a change towards a more sustainable future!

Perhaps you are wondering what a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve is?

Here are two things good to know:

- It is a UNESCO designation that we can be proud of! It means that we live in a special place where people and nature thrive in harmony.
- People living in a biosphere reserve have an important mission: To find clever solutions to the global challenges we are facing. Together, we will make sure the world is a good place for future generations.

Sustainable development is complex and we do not have all the answers. Biosphere reserves are model regions where local solutions to global challenges are developed. When global challenges feel overpowering, we want to show that change is possible and that we can work together to create change. You and your elementary school can participate. *Let the children experience that many people's actions can contribute to something big!* Our ambition is to offer annual practical, real challenges, accessible on equal terms for all pupils.

The Challenge is composed of these four steps:

- 1) Discuss possible activities with you class and decide which activity will have the most positive environmental impact. Decide which Environmental Activity you will submit to the Biosphere Challenge by voting.
- 2) Carry out the Environmental Action with your class.
- 3) Describe your work, the Environmental Action and agree on your motivation of why it is most relevant for you.
- 4) Submit your entry.



Materials

When a school in your biosphere reserves accept the Challenge and sign up, a welcome package will be sent via e-mail. It includes pedagogic materials and a report form.

Everyone is a winner!

The Biosphere Challenge is a challenge for schools in your biosphere reserve. This means that **you will select and acknowledge the winners locally**. Being part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, gives added value since we will share and distribute all Challenge entries in social media. All biosphere reserves participating in the Challenge, will get access to all good ideas which may inspire your future work. Perhaps, you would like to connect to another participating school in a different biosphere reserve?

All participating schools will receive a diploma!

Register here:

Please register to the Biosphere Challenge 2019 by sending an e-mail to info@vanerkulle.se.

Submission

You submit your results no later than April 20th, 2019.

When you report:

- Complete the report form you received when you signed up for the Challenge
- Attach pictures of the environmental activity you chose. The images may be presented on the internet, so please make sure it is of suitable resolution.

Any questions?

Please contact the Biosphere office at info@vanerkulle.se