



Columbus School for Girls Visits Wayne NF

The Wayne NF assists with a background information and research for a local school's participation in the Challenge 20/20 Program.



A group from Columbus School for Girls listens attentively to Becky Ewing and Jarel Bartig's presentation.

The National Association for Independent Schools (NAIS) offers a "Challenge 20/20 Program" that brings two schools together – one from the United States and the other from another country. The students and teachers from both schools work together for a semester to try and identify a local solution to a global problem.

The purpose of the "Challenge 20/20 Program" is to provide schools with the opportunity to build educational partnerships around the world and allow schools to develop and experience a globally-based curriculum. The two schools address a global issue and share their individual experiences. The global issue the two schools chose to address is selected from the 20 global issues that are discussed in the book *High Noon: Twenty Global Problems, Twenty Years to Solve Them* by J.F. Richard.

Twenty Global Problems, Twenty Years to Solve Them by J.F. Richard.

The Columbus School for Girls (CSG) is participating in the "Challenge 20/20 Program" this semester, focusing on deforestation as their global issue. CSG is learning about forests in Ohio as well as the United States and comparing their findings with two partner schools; one school in Dresden, Germany and another in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Africa.

The 4th grade class of 38 students from CSG took their first field trip to the Wayne National Forest on August 30th, 2006. Jarel Bartig, Partnership Coordinator, and Becky Ewing, Wildlife Biologist, helped the girls learn about the National Forest System and the kinds of forests that can be found in Ohio. The CSG students ate lunch on the Forest and hiked some of the trails to experience an oak hickory forest first-hand. The students from CSG participated in several things on the hike including; learning how to measure and identify some trees, looked at a den tree and discussed wildlife habitat, discussed light filtering through the forest canopy, talked about seed banks and tree regeneration, learned how to identify poison ivy, and passed around some deer and bear skulls.

The students at CSG are currently keeping a web site forum about the project to share their information and answer questions each week. Columbus School for Girls and its two partner schools will work together throughout the fall semester this year to develop solutions for deforestation locally. In December, the schools will report their research, solutions, and plans. The Wayne NF looks forward to following up on this story.

For more information contact Miranda Edwards at 740-753-0016