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New Jersey Clean Communities to Host Statewide Students in Annual Environmental Student Exchange

Two-Day Event Set for March 23-24 in Toms River to Attract 700 Participants

TOMS RIVER, NJ - March xx, 2017 - Students throughout the state will be attending the ninth-annual Clean Communities Environmental Student Exchange on Thursday, March 23 and Friday, March 24 in Toms River.

The ninth-annual event, sponsored by the New Jersey Clean Communities Council (NJCCC), will include cleanups along Ortley Beach and a trash hunt at Cattus Island, both rich in history. Students will learn how American Indians provided for their own clean communities, as stewards of the land.

As is tradition, a separate group of pre-selected students who have been heavily involved in Clean Communities programs in their towns will participate in roundtable discussions and then remain overnight at a hotel in Toms River.

All participants will gain a comprehensive view of the history and evolution of environmental issues in New Jersey. The focus will be land use, transportation, and community development, as participants create new and more innovative solutions to environmental problems.

An estimated 500 students and teachers, and an additional 200 volunteers from local environmental organizations, are expected to participate.

"This event is for students to come together and share ideas on environmental issues related to litter and the proper handling of waste," explained NJCCC Executive Director Sandy Huber. "It is a great program for students from all points all New Jersey to learn about issues affecting our rivers and other waterways, and work together on solutions."

The event is hosted by the NJCCC, the Township of Toms River, and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Visit <u>niclean.org</u> to learn more.