

Caring for the Kenai



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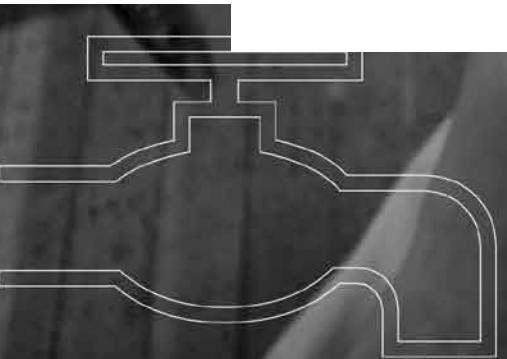


Ask the question, "What can I do, **invent, or create** to better care for the environment on the Kenai Peninsula, or to improve the area's preparedness for a natural disaster?"

Identify a problem and develop a solution. Research, perform scientific experiments and

conduct personal interviews. **Learn** as much about the topic as possible. Then, as an individual or team, write a proposal that explains the problem and your proposed solution.

What you can do



Giving back to the Kenai Peninsula



Tesoro and Chevron are committed to giving back to our community. Teaching environmental awareness and fostering stewardship is the key to encouraging the next generation to **think of the environment** as part of everything it does. For more than 20 years, the annual Caring for the Kenai contest for local high school students has been challenging participants to develop effective ways to **preserve and improve the environment**. Because we all are environmental decision makers.



Many environmental problems on the Kenai Peninsula mirror those found in communities **worldwide**. Caring for the Kenai offers students the chance to step outside the walls of the classroom and **develop practical, applicable solutions** that have real impact on the community.

This is the real world



Winning entries

Kaitlin Vadla developed a floodplain management Web site for the Kenai River, including forms, definitions and related links.

Soldotna High freshman Marit Hartvigson designed a grate-walk to protect the banks of Slikok Creek from being damaged by students participating in the Adopt-a-Stream program. She successfully permitted, funded and with volunteer labor constructed the project. She was honored by President George W. Bush with the EPA President's Environmental Youth Award. Five CFK winners have received this award from three different Presidents of the United States.

A team of seniors designed improvements, acquired permits and funding, and performed the labor required to complete the habitat enhancement programs at Soldotna Creek Park.



And the winner is ...

Contest finalists share \$7,000 in cash prizes and attend an awards banquet. Additionally, all semi-finalists are eligible to receive prizes from more than 30 semi-finalist sponsors. Awards range from guided fishing trips to corporate prizes. Check out www.caringforthekenai.com for a complete list of semi-finalists awards.

Student Awards

1st place	\$1,500		
2nd place	\$1,000	5th place	\$550
3rd place	\$800	6th place	\$400
4th place	\$650	7th - 12th place	\$250

Team entries will divide the winnings among team members

School Awards

Through a matching grant from Chevron, Tesoro and the Kenai River Sportfishing Association, up to \$20,000 cash will be distributed amongst the science or English departments that use Caring for the Kenai as a classroom assignment at all participating high schools. For details go to www.caringforthekenai.com.

Caring for the Kenai is open to all Kenai Peninsula high school students. If you have questions about the contest, ask your science teacher, go to www.caringforthekenai.com or call the Program Coordinator at (907) 262-4949. Submit your project with an entry form to your science teacher or deliver your project and entry form to Caring for the Kenai.



Caring for the Kenai®
Sikorski Consulting
P.O. Box 385
Soldotna, Alaska 99669
info@caringforthekenai.com
(907) 262-4949

CFK is a Community Partnership

Over the last two decades, many students have implemented their ideas turning the contest prompt around from “What can I do?” and telling us what they have done to improve the environment or to prepare for a natural disaster.

Many of the successful proposals are a result of collaboration with family members, community or agency professionals, and science teachers following elements of the school districts Analytic Writing Assessment rubric.

2008 CFK winner Lincoln Wensley of Kenai Central High School was selected by the EPA to receive the President’s Environmental Youth Award (PEYA).

Wensley attended the PEYA presentation at the EPA headquarters in Washington D.C. where EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson honored Wensley at a formal ceremony with the prestigious PEYA award on behalf of President Barak Obama. Additionally Lincoln’s project to preserve the Kenai Dunes won him the national Prudential Spirit of Community Award which earned him \$1,000 cash and another trip to the nation’s capital.

Local businesses and organizations participate in the CFK Semi-Finalist award program offering recognition, prizes and awards for their favorite entry. All entries selected as semi-finalists are displayed at a public venue each spring, but only

12 are selected to compete in the oral presentations for the CFK cash awards. Log on to www.caringforthekenai.com for a complete list of semi-finalist sponsors and prizes.



Caring for the Kenai Sponsors

“We at Tesoro are thrilled to help youth give back to our community. Our core values of excellence, creativity, and teamwork fit CFK perfectly.”

Kip, Knudson
Tesoro Alaska
External Affairs Manager



“Youth has the great advantage of being open-minded, uninhibited, optimistic and greatly invested in the future.”

John Zager
Chevron
General Manager



Sponsored by Chevron and Tesoro in cooperation with:

- Kenai Watershed Forum
- Kenai River Sportfishing Association
- Kenai Peninsula Borough
- Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
- ReGroup
- Green Star
- Peninsula Clarion
- Homer News

