

Opportunity for green teens

Westport-based energy company Gault Inc., and the non-profit organization Polar Bears International (PBI), announced the 2009 launch of its two Fairfield County green teen competitions: Leadership Camp and Project Polar Bear.

Leadership Camp is an essay competition in which one Fairfield County high school rising junior is given the opportunity to travel to Churchill, Manitoba, Canada, to explore the polar bear's subarctic habitat alongside some of the world's leading scientists, educators and wildlife photographers.

The winning student joins more than 30 students from around the world at Polar Bears International's Leadership Camp in October 2009, and returns home as Fairfield County's arctic ambassador, with a mission to educate area school children about the plight of the polar bear, and what they and their families can do to help. Students may enter the competition at www.gault-pbi.com. The deadline for entries is Monday, June 15, at 4:30 p.m.

Project Polar Bear is a national competition that encourages small groups of teens ages 14 to 18, and an adult adviser, to create local projects that will help reduce the carbon dioxide load in their community's atmosphere.

Four finalist teams, selected from a pool of national contestants, will be flown to the San Diego Zoo in spring 2010 for an awards ceremony. The team judged "Best Overall" will travel to Churchill, Manitoba, Canada, in October 2010 to study the great ice bears in their native habitat. Fairfield County teens must register their Project Polar Bear teams and projects between June 1 and July 31, at www.gault-pbi.com.

According to Sam Gault, president of Gault Inc., teenagers have the ability to inspire real change in their own communities, especially when it comes to educating younger children and their families about the effects of global warming on the health of neighborhoods, the planet and the polar bear's habitat.

"In 2008, we had the opportunity to reach out to Fairfield County teens for the first time and were truly impressed with the level of interest, quality of applicants and their commitment to green issues. We are eager to build on the success of last year's programs and anticipate generating a great many more entries among teenagers who, as we all know, are masters at spreading the word for a good cause," Gault said.



