



## background information

**In the Launch, the aim is to set you and the students up for success throughout the Earth Force experience.**

### A WORD ABOUT "CITIZENSHIP"

We often use the term "environmental citizenship" as short hand for the collection of long-term outcomes that we hope to nurture among students who participate in Earth Force. Before delineating what we mean by this, it's important to note what we don't mean:

We don't limit our understanding of "citizen" to the narrow sense of the term—one who is legally recognized as a citizen of a state or nation. Rather, we use the broader definition of the term—one who is a member of a community.

Thus, our notion of "citizenship" has little to do with legal status and everything to do with the stuff it takes to meaningfully participate in a community.

Nonetheless, citizenship—at least as we conceptualize it—is central to the Earth Force experience.

If this terminology is not appropriate for your students, consider using "Community Problem Solver," or allowing the students to come up with their own term.

### what needs to happen

1. Introduce the concept of environmental citizenship.
2. Convey the Earth Force purpose and Process.

**This requires articulating our goals and some of our terminology.**

### A WORD ABOUT "ENVIRONMENTAL CITIZENSHIP"

We hope to nurture ideal "environmental citizens":

**Environmental Citizen:** A proactive member of the community who understands the importance of being a steward of the planet 's limited natural resources and is committed to going beyond private actions by using civic actions to sustain them.

On page 4 is a listing of the attributes that collectively comprise our image of an Environmental Citizen. This entire curriculum has been designed to offer lessons and resources that will help you nurture these attributes among your students.

### WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

- Students look forward to involvement in Earth Force.
- Students gain an understanding about what it means to be an environmental citizen and community problem solver.

### A WORD ABOUT THE EARTH FORCE EXPERIENCE

While it is tempting to use the word project when discussing Earth Force with your students, we prefer to use experience, a term that emphasizes process over product. Students will gain knowledge, skills and character development as they follow the 6-step process. The learning that takes place during this experience is, in the end, more valuable than the success of their action project down the road.

Allowing frequent opportunities to reflect upon their Earth Force experience will allow them to realize their personal gains; their perception of success will not be limited to the implementation of their strategy.