Earth Day Volunteer Registration is Now Open!

GA Tech’s Earth Day Celebration is one of the largest in the southeast. On April 18, 2014, thousands of people will converge on Georgia Tech's Atlanta campus for the 17th annual Earth Day Celebration, which features 70+ exhibitors, live music, free organic popcorn and recycling activities.

It takes more than 200 volunteers to make the event a success. We need volunteers to help set up the stage, assist with the Office Supply Exchange and E-waste recycling, give out organic popcorn and Earth Day T-shirts, and much more. No prior experience is required. You can volunteer for one hour, all day, or anything in between. All volunteers will receive a free Earth Day T-shirt.

Help us make the 17th annual Earth Day Celebration the biggest and best one yet! Please go to http://www.earthday.gatech.edu/volunteers.html for more information and to sign up.
Earth Day Spring Cleanout

This year’s Earth Day Celebration will feature a clothing swap, an office supply exchange, E-waste recycling, and athletic shoe recycling. In order to make these programs successful, we need your donations! From now through March 27, the Earth Day Planning Committee is accepting gently used clothing, worn-out sneakers, personal electronics (no state or unit property), and extra office supplies.

Usable electronics will be donated to the Office Supply Exchange and non-functioning electronics will be recycled through Atlanta Recycling Solutions. Old sneakers will be recycled through the Nike Reuse-A-Shoe program. Gently used clothes will be traded at the Clothing Swap. At the Earth Day Celebration on Friday April 18, Georgia Tech students, faculty and staff with a valid BuzzCard can shop for free at the Office Supply Exchange and Clothing Swap.

If you have office supplies that are just laying around gathering dust, an old cell phone that no longer works, or a sweater that you don’t wear anymore, here is an opportunity to clean out your closets and support Georgia Tech’s Earth Day Celebration at the same time. To see a complete list of acceptable items visit www.earthday.gatech.edu.

Drop-off Opportunities

March 4 – 27:
From now through March 27th, you can drop off your unneeded office supplies, personal E-waste, gently used clothes (in good condition), and old sneakers at The Office of Solid Waste Management & Recycling (947 Atlantic Drive) on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am – 2pm.

At the Georgia Tech Farmers Market:
Donations can be dropped off at the Earth Day table at the Georgia Tech Farmers Market on Thursday, March 13 and Thursday, March 27 from 11am – 2pm on Tech Walk.

Drop-off boxes are also located at several locations around campus, including the Campus Recreation Center, Burdell’s (in the Student Center Commons, at the check-out register) and at the Georgia Tech Barnes & Noble (at the check-out register). For a complete list of locations, go to http://www.earthday.gatech.edu/clothing_swap.html.

At the Earth Day Celebration on April 18:
You can also bring your donations with you to the Earth Day Celebration on Friday, April 18 on Tech Walk (10am-3pm).
Silver Leaf Initiative Recognizes Student Organizations for Environmental Commitment

In February, Georgia Tech’s Student Government Association launched the Silver Leaf program. Silver Leaf is a certification program that recognizes Georgia Tech student organizations for their commitment to environmental practices. In order to be eligible for Silver Leaf certification, student organizations must incorporate recycling at their special events. Recycling bins can be requested from the Office of Solid Waste Management & Recycling and will be provided free of charge. Additional requirements will likely be added in future years as the program expands. Student organizations can apply for Silver Leaf certification online at www.recycle.gatech.edu/silverleaf.

The Silver Leaf initiative is a collaborative effort among the Student Government Association, the Office of Solid Waste Management & Recycling, the Brook Byers Institute for Sustainable Systems, and Capital Planning & Space Management.

For additional information about the Silver Leaf program, contact Rachit Kansal, Student Government Association Sustainability Committee Co-Chair, at rkansal6@gatech.edu.

Georgia Tech Students Tackle Food Waste and Hunger Via Campus Kitchens Project

According to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), “About 35 million tons of food waste reach landfills and incinerators each year in the United States. This waste could be prevented, used to feed people, or composted to create a valuable soil amendment.” (Source: http://www.epa.gov/foodrecovery/). A group of dedicated Georgia Tech students is addressing the issues of waste and hunger by working to establish a Campus Kitchen at Georgia Tech. The Campus Kitchens Project is a non-profit organization that provides nourishing meals for food-insecure persons using donated food. Student volunteers at participating schools utilize donated kitchen space on campus to prepare the meals. There are currently 34 Campus Kitchens at high schools, colleges and universities across the US.

Georgia Tech’s Campus Kitchen will take unused, quality food from the dining halls and use it to prepare nutritious meals for individuals in the Atlanta area. Student volunteers will be trained in proper procedures for safely handling the food, and meals will be prepared in the kitchen at Brittain Dining Hall. In February, the group won a $5,000 grant to assist with the costs of opening a Campus Kitchen.

Grant Grimes, Student Promotions Coordinator for Georgia Tech Dining Services, anticipates that Georgia Tech’s Campus Kitchen will begin operating later this spring. The Campus Kitchen is a student-run initiative, with support from Dining Services and the Honors Program. Grant says that “Georgia Tech Dining Services views serving our community as our top priority, and through this partnership with Georgia Tech, we will be able to increase our positive impact on our community while reducing our impact on the environment at the same time”.

If you are interested in getting involved with the Georgia Tech Campus Kitchen, contact Grant Grimes at grant.grimes@sodexo.com. For more information about The Campus Kitchens Project please go to http://www.campuskitchens.org/.
Comments and Suggestions

If you have any questions or suggestions about our program, please feel free to contact us by simply replying to this newsletter. We are here to help, and together, we can work to benefit the environment.

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Visit Our Website

As part of our effort to provide you with better services we continually update our website. Recycling guidelines and useful links can be found at www.recycle.gatech.edu.