

May 19, 2009

Greetings!

Great River Greening is in the midst of our **Million Acorn Challenge** – a five year effort to restore oak savanna communities across the Twin Cities – and this summer you're invited to help us reach our goal of planting one million acorns by 2010.

Through our contest called the **Million Acorn Challenge**, Great River Greening, a nonprofit organization committed to restoring valuable and endangered natural areas along our local rivers and their watersheds, seeks to involve hundreds of students in collecting acorns from local parks and natural areas. We are inviting school, community and neighborhood youth groups, grades 6 through 12, to collect specific species of acorns from August 17 – September 17, 2009. The challenge will culminate in **The Great Weigh-In Party and Planting** at Afton State Park on September 19, 2009, where students will join other participating youth from around the metro for the official acorn weigh-in, an acorn planting, and fabulous free food! We will award \$500 cash prizes and eco-adventures to the winning groups. Please see the enclosed flyer for more details.



Acorns can be collected on public or private property, but students MUST have permission from the landowner before they remove acorns from the site. Great River Greening has approval from the City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Division to collect in Saint Paul public parks; groups that collect in these parks will receive a collection permit once they register. Groups collecting outside this area will receive a permission request letter to use when contacting city or county landowners.

The **Million Acorn Challenge** is a unique opportunity to get young people involved in service to their community and the environment. Not only will the oak trees they plant benefit the next generation, but participating in this project will teach our youth that they really can make a difference in their world if they are **up to the challenge!** If you know of another youth group that may be interested in participating in the **Million Acorn Challenge**, please feel free to forward this information to them.

Please contact me with questions or to request a registration packet. Check with us later this week at [www.greatrivergreening.org/acornchallenge.asp](http://www.greatrivergreening.org/acornchallenge.asp) to download the registration packet. Pre-registration is required; completed registration materials must be received no later than Friday, July 31, 2009. I can be reached at [jkutzer@greatrivergreening.org](mailto:jkutzer@greatrivergreening.org) or 651-665-9500 ext. 18. I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Sincerely,

Justin Kutzer  
Development Assistant