

Connecting people to nature through outreach and environmental education: the Mississippi Field Office is often invited to give programs to the public. A biologist will visit schools, libraries, civic and conservation group meetings and attend special events (conservation festivals or nature celebrations).

New Jerusalem Church Outreach

By Malika Shettar, Youth Ambassador, Mississippi Field Office, Jackson, MS

On Tuesday morning, July 17, 2011, I went to the New Jerusalem Church in Jackson, Mississippi, with wildlife biologist Terri Jacobson, to teach children about conservation. For the younger kids, 5-6 years old, we played a memory game matching endangered species babies with their adult parents. The little tykes also got to examine and touch a sea turtle shell with Ms. Terri.



For the older kids, ages 7-11, the private eye game with sweet gum balls yielded many analogies of animals as ordinary objects. Magnifying glasses, just like the ones detectives like Encyclopedia Brown would use, were used to amplify a portion of the subject matter by five times.



The conclusion of the conservation lesson consisted of a brief recap with a short Q and A session. One of the kids asked what we did at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Ms. Terri was quick to respond about the daily duties of a FWS employee.