

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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GOVERNOR JOINS SMITHVILLE SCHOOL STUDENTS ON BIKE TOUR OF FORSYTHE WILDLIFE REFUGE

Gov. Christie Whitman today joined sixth grade students from the Smithville Elementary School on a bike tour of the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge in Oceanville (Galloway Township). The Governor and the students also participated in several environmental science lessons at the refuge.

"Our state's commitment to protecting the environment was demonstrated in the overwhelming support given by New Jersey voters last year to the referendum that will enable us to preserve over one million acres of farmland and open space in the next decade," the Governor said. "By preserving our open space and protecting our environment we are maintaining the quality of life our families deserve - with clean air, clean water, with safer roads and more space."

The Smithville Elementary School and the students are participating in the Earth Stewards program of the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The purpose of the program is to encourage a greater appreciation of and stewardship of the environment.