



PHOTO: MAP MADE USING ERMA

Mapping Personal and Community Sustainability



2013 UPCOMING FALL PROGRAM

The SPIRALS Project

Supporting and Promoting Indigenous and Rural Adolescents' Learning of Science

Explore the people and places of your community to learn the parts they play in ensuring a healthy future. Research the science behind issues of sustainability that youth find are important. Use the power of technology to create online maps to tell the stories of the people and places in your lives and document the lessons of today for a more sustainable tomorrow.

Through the exploration of sustainability in their communities teacher/mentors will guide youth in:

- Developing a sense of place
- Learning science through inquiry-based projects
- Researching youth generated questions about connections to people and places, food systems, local economies and the environment in their communities
- Make maps to document and share what they learn



How do the practices of daily living for me and my community affect the long term future of my family and my community?



What is Sustainability?

An experiential project that engages youth to explore and meet the places and people in their communities.

Participating youth, ages 9-14, will learn how to:

- Identify a sustainable project
- Determine where the sustainability of their own daily practices fits within their community
- Explore how daily practices in their personal lives fits into the sustainability of their local, statewide and global communities

Learners who participate in SPIRALS will also:

- *Increase computer skills by creating maps using on-line technology with support from UNH faculty, staff and students*
- Evaluate and use their maps to tell a story
- Recognize local ecological knowledge as science
- Build a sense of pride in their research
- Open doors and make connections to their future
- Assist their communities with finding answers to burning questions
- *Present their projects to local community members and be part of a bigger online presentation and conference at UNH*

Using resources within their communities and beyond, youth will explore personal and community connections to local history and science. Resources may include:

- Interviews with community experts
- Community values
- Measurement of data gathered in the field
- Stories and songs
- Books and maps
- Photos, video or audio collected from special places
- Use everyday language to learn science
- Modern technologies



SPIRALS is sponsored by the National Science Foundation

For more information contact:

Claes Thelemarck

UNH Cooperative Extension
claes.thelemarck@unh.edu
 (603) – 447-3834