

CONSERVATION education

Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District

November 2017

Welcome to the Conservation Education Newsletter from the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District. This quarterly publication will keep you up to date on Conservation education news from our District.



Worms on the Go...



We have a new lesson here at LSWCD. If you are studying soil, composting or life cycles, I can bring 999 of my best friends in to your classroom!

So far we have visited 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders and everyone has had wriggly, squirmy fun. Worms can help with SOLs from Kindergarten through 5th grade.

This lesson is presentation only. To schedule a worm visit, please contact me at charlotte.demolay@lswcd.org.

Resources...

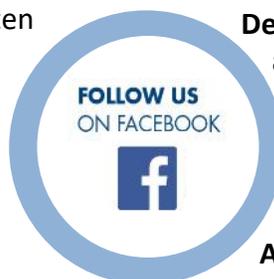
Grade 4—Free Park Pass, Everykidinapark.gov

Grades K-12 — President's Environmental Youth Award, www.epa.gov/education/presidents-environmental-youth-award

Grades 6-12 — Lexus Eco Challenge (Challenge 2 is still open), lexus.scholastic.com/challenges

Elementary and Middle—Great conservation book list, www.nacdnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Pack-a-Book_2018-List.pdf

All Ages—Virginia Water Radio, www.virginiawateradio.org/



High School Dominion Envirothon Teams...

It's not too late to put together a team! No prior experience or training required.

To learn all about the Dominion Envirothon and to access a LOT of resources visit vaswcd.org/envirothon.

December 8, 2017 – Deadline to orally commit a team for the 2018 Dominion Envirothon Competitions.

If we have more than 2 teams I will need time to plan a local competition. Date TBD until after 12/8 but most likely early April.

April 25, 2018 – Area II Competition – Maximum of 2 teams from Loudoun.

Fauquier Education farm, 8428 Meetze Rd, Warrenton, VA 20187. Top 3 teams from any district will advance to the state competition.

May 20-21, 2018 – Virginia State Competition

Ferrum College, 215 Ferrum Mountain Road, Ferrum, Virginia 24088

**Need a Training Trunk?
Contact me to borrow:
Soil, Wildlife, Forestry, or Aquatics**

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Losing Yourself in Nature is a Good Thing, Losing Your Students, Not so Much...

One time I lost a whole Girl Scout Troop. We were in a fenced camp southwest of Dallas, Texas, and I let the girls go exploring. After an hour or so my co-leader and I decided they had been gone a little longer than expected and we went looking for them. Three trips around the not-so-large camp and we started getting worried. We asked a few other leaders out with girls and one said they saw them down by the creek.

We headed straight there and sure enough they were in and along the water, exploring and having a great time. As soon as they saw us they started telling us about all their adventures of following the creek, along the bed and straight down the middle of the creek. This included ducking under some 'rusty pokey wire.' They were excited, having fun and very proud of their independence.

Swallowing down all my motherly fears (snakes, glass, rusty nails, porcupine attacks, alien kidnapping, etc.), I answered as a Nature Lover, "I'm really glad you are having so much fun. Next time don't go past the fence. That is not Girl Scout

Camp and you may be trespassing." and as a Troop Leader, "Smart thinking on carrying your hiking shoes so they wouldn't get wet. Maybe next time we should bring water shoes since you noticed some of the rocks are a little sharp."

Spending those couple of hours exploring the woods and creek taught the girls something that classrooms or suburban lawns could never provide. To really love the outdoors and cultivate a sense of respect and responsibility, students need to GO outside. Here are some lessons learned over time from taking scouts, students and my own kids into the great outdoors.

5 Tips for taking your students outside:

- 1) **Use a Buddy System.** #1 Safety rule. Everyone has a buddy and they go EVERYWHERE together, bathroom runs (obviously opposite sex can stand outside but they need to go to the structure that houses the facilities and wait), exploring, back to the instructor...everywhere! If you have a loner in a group that tries to wander off on purpose, they are now the instructor's buddy and their partner can group in with someone else.
- 2) **Know your students.** Who has a bee allergy? Who is fearful about the great, green outdoors? Have a supply kit with necessary medical tools and use your knowledge for Tip #1.
- 3) **Know the boundaries.** Whether it's rusty barb-wire across a creek or the edge of the cut school lawn, make sure your students know the boundaries BEFORE they head out.
- 4) **Don't let the weather stop you.** Nature doesn't have a thermostat you can set with your iPhone. Be prepared for hot, cold, wet or dry. Try to plan explorations during all of those conditions!
- 5) **Have a lesson prepared but be prepared to learn.** They will see things you have stopped seeing or never thought to look at. Guided exploring is great and valuable but build in time to discover and wonder as well.

If you would like some help getting your students outside, try our Conservation Checkout—**The World Beneath Your Feet** for Grades K, 1 & 2. The box has enough supplies for 1 Class. You will need about 30 minutes and a grassy area outside.

Students begin thinking like scientists as they make observations about what is in a patch of their schoolyard. This Conservation Checkout includes a Lesson Plan, Investigation tools (rope, magnifier, bug box, tweezers, trowel, ruler, misters) for teams of 2-3, and a thermometer. Grade 2 will also have Observation Sheets. Contact me to reserve this Checkout.

"Let
Nature
be your
teacher."

— William
Wordsworth

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WATERSHEDS
OUR WATER, ©
OUR HOME



JOIN LOUDOUN SOIL AND
WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT IN CELEBRATING
SOIL AND WATER
STEWARDSHIP WEEK

April 29 – May 6, 2018

As a part of the Loudoun community, the Loudoun SWCD wants to remind you that each of us has a connection to natural resources. The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) is celebrating Stewardship week April 29–May 6, 2018. The Stewardship and Education Committee has developed a five-year rotation for stewardship topics – water, soil, habitat, forestry, and a topic of interest – and determines the theme each year. **The 2018 Stewardship theme is Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home.**

Water is one of our most precious resources. Watersheds supply water for drinking and recreation, irrigation and manufacturing, and wildlife and bird habitat. It is essential that each of us adopts good water conservation habits so that we can keep our water resources safe and productive now and for future generations.

This year the Loudoun SWCD in partnership with Loudoun County Public Schools will continue its special stewardship education program for local elementary and middle schools by providing printed educational materials. Educational **materials include an Activity booklet on, a Placemat/Activity Sheet, Bookmark and Poster.** For additional information on **Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home** education resources and for downloadable resources and education materials, go to <http://www.nacdnet.org/education/resources/local-heroes>.

If you would like to observe Soil and Water Stewardship Week in your classroom and use these special materials (FREE of charge), please contact Charlotte DeMolay, Education Specialist, at the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation by email at charlotte.demolay@lswcd.org. **I will need to know your name, your grade, school name, and number of materials needed.**

DEADLINE FOR ALL ORDERS IS FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2018

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2018 Soil & Water Stewardship Week Class Materials

Activity Books



Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home Level 1 (GR K-1)

Designed for students in grades K-1.

TOPICS:

- ◆ Define watersheds.
- ◆ Explain the flow of water through a watershed.
- ◆ Realize the importance of watershed conservation.
- ◆ Fun activities!



Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home Level 3 (GR 4-5)

Designed for students in grades 4-5.

TOPICS:

- ◆ Define watersheds.
- ◆ Evaluate the structure of a watershed with the use of a topographical map.
- ◆ Explain the role of runoff in the transport of sediment and pollution.
- ◆ Fun activities!

Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home Level 2 (GR 2-3)

Designed for students in grades 2-3.

TOPICS:

- ◆ Observe and participate in water being shed.
- ◆ Evaluate the effect of pollutants on a watershed.
- ◆ Discuss the correlation between their habits and drinking water quality.

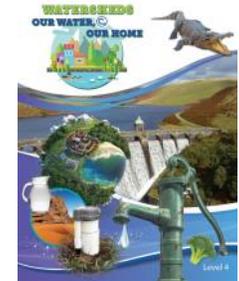


Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home Level 4 (GR 6 and up)

Designed for students in grades 6 and up.

TOPICS:

- ◆ Define watersheds.
- ◆ Evaluate the interaction between the water cycle and watersheds.
- ◆ Explain the role of top soil and runoff water in the Dust Bowl.



Posters



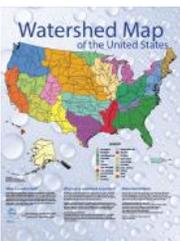
Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home Poster A

Designed for students in grades K-3.

Information covering:

What is a watershed? Why is your watershed important? and resource links.

13.75"x11"



Watersheds: Watersheds of the USA Poster B

Designed for students in grades 4 and up.

Information covering:

What is a watershed? Why is your watershed important? and resource links.

11" x 14.75"

Extras

Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home Placemat/Activity Sheet

Designed for students in grades 4 and up.

Fun activities based on watersheds.

2 sided 9" x 13".



Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home Bookmark

Designed for students in all grades.

Great product for your schools, libraries, and community outreach efforts around the topic of water and watersheds.



Please include your name, your grade, school name, and number of materials needed in your order.

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