

# CONSERVATION education

Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District

November 2018

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.

## Mark Your Calendars for the First Loudoun SEAS...

The inaugural Loudoun Student Environmental Action Showcase (SEAS) will be held on **Tuesday, March 26, 2019, from 5-8 p.m. at Heritage High School in Leesburg, Virginia**. The event is co-hosted by Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS), the Loudoun Environmental Stewardship Alliance (LESA), and the Northwest Virginia Regional GREENetwork.

The highlight of the event will be student-created exhibitions of environmentally-themed projects and ongoing activities. Individual students, green/eco-action teams, environmental clubs and youth groups are invited to share their work on reducing waste, conserving energy, improving water quality, preserving natural habitat and other sustainability-minded projects in their schools and communities.

Participation is open to all K-12 students in Loudoun County representing public and private schools, homeschoilers and members of community-based youth organizations such as 4-H clubs and Scout troops.

For more information visit [loudounnature.org](http://loudounnature.org).

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## High School Envirothon Teams...

Got a potential team? Still thinking about it? It's not too late! Please feel free to contact me for more information. I can also attend interest meetings with your students to help recruit and answer questions.

Let's get some more Loudoun Teams at Envirothon this year!

To learn all about the Dominion Envirothon and to access a LOT of resources visit [vaswcd.org/envirothon](http://vaswcd.org/envirothon).

Important Dates:

**December 18, 2018** – Deadline to orally commit a team for the 2019 Dominion Envirothon Competitions.

**April 3rd, 2019**—Local Competition if needed (Tentative date) Location TBD

**April 30, 2019** – Area II Competition – Maximum of 2 teams from Loudoun. James Long Park in Haymarket. Top 3 teams from any district will advance to the state competition.

**May 19-20, 2019** – Virginia State Competition  
Location TBD

**Loudoun SWCD**

30 Catoctin Circle, SE., Suite 218  
Leesburg, VA 20175

[www.loudounsoilandwater.org](http://www.loudounsoilandwater.org)



**Charlotte DeMolay**

Education Specialist  
571.918.4530 ext. 109  
[charlotte.demolay@lswcd.org](mailto:charlotte.demolay@lswcd.org)

# Mini-grant Application

## Due November 30...

The Loudoun SWCD Mini-grant program offers a limited number of mini-grants of up to \$500 to



Loudoun County teachers. The Mini-Grants are intended for projects that integrate soil & water conservation into any curriculum.

Last year we granted over \$2700 to six different schools. Projects ranged from School Gardens to Blue Bird Houses and from Ele-

mentary ages through High School:

**Park View High School, Multiculture, Vermiculture, Agriculture: An Organic & Eco-Friendly Learning Space**

**Hillsboro Charter Academy, Saving our Soil**

**Sugarland Elementary, Backyards and Beyond**

**Embark Center for Self-Directed Education, Gardening, Beautification and Out reach**

**JL Simpson Middle School, Outdoor Learning Environment – Native Plant and Pollinator Garden**

**Blue Ridge Middle School, Can we improve our schoolyard environment by creating an inviting habitat for tree swallows and blue birds?**

Deadline this year is November 30th. Please see our website for application forms.

"Teaching children about the natural world should be treated as one of the most important events in their lives."

**~Thomas Berry**

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# Water, Soil and Conservation...

It's what we do! Let us help You! Our lessons and expertise at Loudoun SWCD are designed to help you in your classroom. Here's what we offer by grade:

## Kindergarten & 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

- Dirt Buddies
- World Beneath Your Feet
- Freddy the Fish
- The 3 R's
- Worms on the Go



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

- Dirt Buddies
- World Beneath Your Feet
- The 3 R's
- Worms on the Go
- The Incredible Journey Water Cycle



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

- Dirt Buddies
- Worms on the Go
- The Incredible Journey Water Cycle
- Soil Tunnel
- Soil Studies
- Enviroscape
- Stream the Movie Skit



## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Worms on the Go
- Enviroscape
- Stream the Movie Skit
- Conservation Jeopardy



## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Worms on the Go
- Enviroscape
- Conservation Jeopardy



## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Enviroscape
- Conservation Jeopardy

## 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

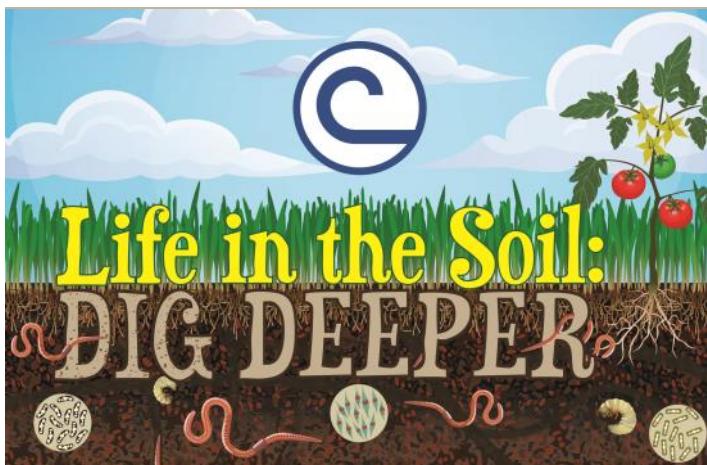
No formal programs but are available as community partners for MWEE, PLB and other projects.

## High School

Envirothon, Conservation Camp, Scholarships, Youth Conservation Leadership Institute as well as assistance with projects.

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

# April 28 - May 5, 2019

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 28–May 5, 2019. 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 2019 Stewardship theme is *Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper*.**

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 Mini-Poster**. For additional information on *Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper* education resources and for downloadable resources and education materials, go to [http://www.nacdnet.org/general-resources/stewardship-and-education-materials/2019-life-in-the-soil-dig-deeper/..](http://www.nacdnet.org/general-resources/stewardship-and-education-materials/2019-life-in-the-soil-dig-deeper/)

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](mailto: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 THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2019

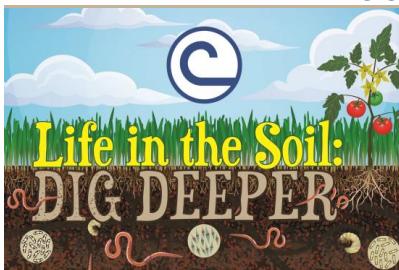
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# 2019 Soil & Water Stewardship Week Class Materials

## Activity Books



### Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper Level 1 (GR K-1)

Designed for students in grades K-1.

#### TOPICS:

- ~ Familiarize themselves with the ways they interact with soil on a daily basis.
- ~ Differentiate between living and nonliving components of soil.
- ~ Realize the connection between soil and items such as food, furniture, etc.



### Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper

#### Level 4 (GR 6 and up)

Designed for students in grades 6 and up.

#### TOPICS:

- ~ Explain the role of soil microbes.
- ~ Distinguish the difference between types of soil microbes.
- ~ Recognize the involvement of soil in most aspects of daily life.
- ~ Comprehend the value of healthy soil. Identify the structure and function of soil profiles.

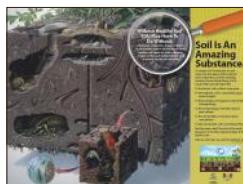


### Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper Level 2 (GR 2-3)

Designed for students in grades 2-3.

#### TOPICS:

- ~ Identify the connection between the five senses and the comfort of their living environment.
- ~ Recognize that many living organisms make their home in soil.
- ~ Realize the connection between soil and their daily activities.



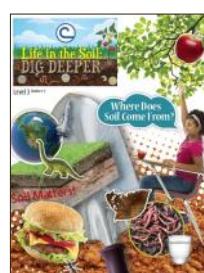
### Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper

#### Mini-Poster

#### Information covering:

Design shows life above and in the

## Extras



### Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper

#### Level 3 (GR 4-5)

Designed for students in grades 4-5.

#### TOPICS:

- ~ Recognize that millions of organisms are living in the soil around them.
- ~ Relate classifications of soil organisms to their function within the soil.
- ~ Appreciate the benefit of soil and soil organisms to humans.
- ~ Identify the structure and function of soil horizons.



### Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper

#### Placemat/Activity Sheet

Designed for students in grades 4 and up.



### Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper Bookmark

Designed for students in all grades.

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

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