

CONSERVATION education

Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District

November 2019

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.



Teacher Mini-Grants due December 2nd!!

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.

Criteria for the Teacher Mini-Grants:



- ~ Increases awareness about natural resources.
- ~ Presents a specific, feasible plan of action to accomplish well defined, short term and long term results.
- ~ Develops new or expands use of existing educational resources.
- ~ Offers the potential to serve as a model for use in other schools or classrooms.

Please see our website for more

details, past projects and an application:

www.loudounsoilandwater.com/education/teacher-mini-grants/

Check out our Envirothon Training Opportunity...

Attention students and potential coaches/teachers interested in learning more about our upcoming 2020 Envirothon competition! Find out what Envirothon is all about by attending our training on



November 23 at Graves Mountain Lodge in Syria, VA!! Deadline to register for the training is **November 15.** LSWCD has some funds available to pay for registration for those interested in learning. Please feel free to contact me for more information. To learn all about the Dominion Envirothon visit www.vaswcd.org/envirothon. Important Dates:

December 20, 2019 – Deadline to orally commit a team for the 2020 Dominion Envirothon Competitions.

April 29, 2020 – Area II Competition – Maximum of two teams from Loudoun. Graves Mountain Lodge in Syria, VA. Top 3 teams from any district will advance to the state competition.

May 17-18, 2020 – Virginia State Competition—Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA

Loudoun SWCD

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Congratulations to Jiho Park for winning first place in her grade category in the 2019 Virginia Stewardship Poster Contest!

Jiho Park of J. Michael Lunsford Middle School submitted her “Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper” themed poster this past Spring during our the LSWCD local Stewardship Week poster contest for grade category 7—9. After winning locally, her artwork was submitted to the State Competition that occurred this past October. Jiho won again at the state level, and now her poster is moving on to the National Association of Conservation District’s National Poster Contest for a chance to compete against other student entries from across the United States in the upcoming weeks. Her poster will also be on display at the VASWCD Annual Meeting in December at the Norfolk Sheraton for all to admire! Great job Jiho!! We wish you luck in the National Competition!



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The 2020 Stewardship Poster Contest theme is “Where would we BEE without Pollinators?” Loudoun Soil and Water will be accepting entries starting early spring 2020. Stay tuned to our newsletter and website for more info! Your student could be the next winner!!



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

April 26 - May 3, 2020

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 Soil and Water Stewardship week April 26–May 3, 2020. 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 2020 Stewardship theme is “Where would we BEE without pollinators?”**

Pollinators form the foundations of a healthy and sustainable future for food and the environment, but in recent years, they have shown concerning signs of decline. It’s important that we work to help them prosper by enhancing native pollinator habitats and protecting against pollinator declines.

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, a placemat/activity sheet, bookmark and poster**. For additional information on “**Where would we BEE without pollinators?**” education resources and for downloadable resources and education materials, go to <http://www.nacdnet.org>. If you would like to observe Soil and Water Stewardship Week in your classroom and use these special materials (**FREE** of charge), please contact Jennifer Venable, Education Specialist, at the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District by email at jennifer.venable@lswcd.org. **When requesting an order, please send your name, your grade, school name, and number of materials needed.**

Deadline for all orders is March 13, 2020

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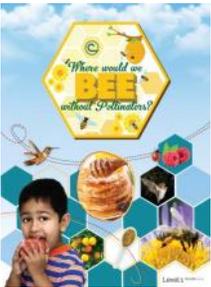
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2020 Soil and Water Stewardship Week Class Materials

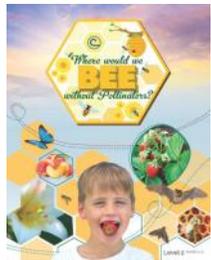
Activity Books



Where would we BEE without Pollinators Level 1 (GR K-1) TOPICS:
 ~Realize that humans need food in order to live and grow and that a large portion of their food comes from plants.
 ~Gain an awareness of the dependence of plants upon pollination.
 ~Deduct which items utilized in their daily lives are dependent upon pollination.
 ~Explain the steps in animal pollination.
 ~Recognize that humans can have a positive impact their environment by making changes beneficial to pollinators.



Where would we BEE without Pollinators Level 4 (GR 6 and up) TOPICS:
 ~Explain the connection between the specialized physical structures of both pollinators and the plants that are their food sources and successful pollination.
 ~Recognize the role of the sense receptors of pollinators to their choice of food.
 ~Grasp that pollinators are dependent on their environmental interactions both with other living organisms, including humans, and with nonliving factors that affect their access to resources.
 ~Identify the ways humans are dependent upon pollinators.
 ~Describe actions that can be taken to increase the pollinator population.



Where would we BEE without Pollinators Level 2 (GR 2-3) TOPICS:
 ~Understand that most plants depend on animals for pollination.
 ~Distinguish the connection between the physical properties of plants, pollen, pollinators and successful pollination.
 ~Realize the role pollination plays in plant reproduction.
 ~Appreciate the vital role pollinators play in their everyday lives.
 ~Recognize that changes made in the environment can affect the availability of resources for pollinators, which in return affects the availability of resources for humans.
 ~Identify actions that can be taken to improve and provide habitat for pollinators.

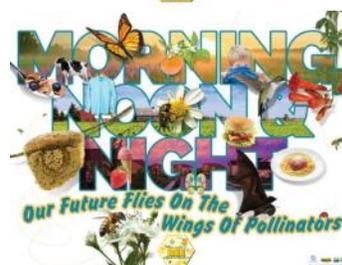
Extras



Where would we BEE without Pollinators Placemat/Activity Sheet (GR 4 and up)
 Fun activities based on pollinators. Double-sided 9" x 13".



Where would we BEE without Pollinators Book-mark
 Designed for students in all grades.



Where would we BEE without Pollinators Poster
 Pollinators are important—morning, noon and night! They are important to the food we eat and the clothes we wear. SIZE: 24"x 32"



Where would we BEE without Pollinators Level 3 (GR 4-5) TOPICS:
 ~Observe that plants have external structures that serve various functions in both pollination and reproduction.
 ~Relate the role of pollinators to plants and the supply of food for human consumption.
 ~Differentiate between vertebrate/invertebrate, mammal/insect pollinators.
 ~Investigate the necessity of pollinators to their everyday lives.
 ~Comprehend that pollinators can survive only in environments in which their particular needs are met.
 ~Identify ways in which human activities impact the environment and ways to help protect resources and habitats.

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

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