

Youth Water Day

Holding a large Youth Water Day is a great way to promote conservation and to reach our audience at a young age. They can exert influence on their parents and families to conserve water and hopefully develop lifelong water saving habits.

Youth Water Day is aimed at third grade students. Four lessons are intended to be taught by teachers or volunteers in the classroom before Youth Water Day. These include: Building an Edible Aquifer, Water Drops on a Penny, Indoor Water Conservation, and Outdoor Water Conservation.

There are seven lessons for Youth Water Day itself:

Simultaneous stations for all students:

- Freddy the Fish
- Water Journey
- Water as a Nutrient

And one station each of the following, *unless you can obtain duplicates of the equipment*:

- Water Obstacle Course
- Stream Trailer
- Rainfall Simulator
- Enviroscope

Example plan:

All together – introductions and overview of water conservation. Then send classrooms to their rotations. At the end of Youth Water Day have everyone come back together to do a closing review.

Line 1: Freddy the Fish → Water Journey → Water as a Nutrient → Water Obstacle Course

Line 2: Freddy the Fish → Water Journey → Water as a Nutrient → Stream Trailer

Line 3: Freddy the Fish → Water Journey → Water as a Nutrient → Rainfall Simulator

Line 4: Freddy the Fish → Water Journey → Water as a Nutrient → Enviroscope

This example plan accommodates **16 classes** of students. More classes can be run through the event by duplicating the four single stations to allow more lines.



Figure 1: Water Obstacle Course



Figure 2: NRCS teaching the Stream Trailer



Figure 3: Stations lined up in action

Agent Suggestions – Tips and Tricks

Teacher cooperation

When planning your event, it is recommended to meet with the teachers well in advance to go over the in-class curriculum with them. Demonstrate activities, if needed, and answer questions. Without their cooperation your evaluation results will not be as significant. Get them excited about the event and what you are offering.

Order your TCEQ materials ahead of time and sort into classroom bundles. Give classroom bundles to teachers with the classroom curriculum and the pretests. *Ask teacher to save bookmarks or stickers as a reward for the return of the 40 Gallon Challenge worksheet within the Indoor Water Conservation lesson.*

Order from <http://takecareoftexas.org/publications>:

- River and Sky's Lone Star Activity Book (GI-380) – Spanish version also available. One per student.
- You Can Take Care of Texas, Too! (GI-379) poster – one per classroom.
- Water Recycles: The Complete Story (GI-403) – order one for each Water Journey station you plan to have, in addition to one per classroom.
- Six Ways to Take Care of Texas Bookmark (GI-324) – one per student.
- Take Care of Texas Kid Sticker (M-037) – one per student.
- Water Conservation Mirror Clings (M-038) – several per school – ask them to place them on restroom mirrors.

Sponsors

Contact your dairy cooperative to ask for ice cream or for milk with lunch. Local banks; county branch of Texas Farm Bureau; energy companies/coops; anyone in your county that provides water, whether municipal or private; river authorities; and underground water authorities. If they

can't donate money ask for bottled water, lunch for your volunteers, or an employee to teach an activity station.

Invite VIPs

Invite local newspapers, commissioners, and other community leaders. Ask newspaper to run some short articles on water conservation to follow the report of your youth water event.

Volunteers

Many adult and youth volunteers are needed for a big event! Many volunteers prefer to teach in teams if they are unused to working with students. Be sure to check on their preferences so as not to run short of station instructors on the day of your event. They might be willing to teach with a youth helper instead of another adult. A pair of runners to haul water will be needed if you do not have water available at each station that needs it.

Setting Up

Have each class stay together through their rotations with their teacher. Run simultaneous stations of each of these lessons:

- Freddy the Fish
- Water Journey
- Water as a Nutrient

And one each of the following, *unless you can obtain duplicates of the equipment*:

- Water Obstacle Course– this one is not very expensive to make your own station if you need more duplicates to run more classes through your Youth Water Day. Put out a request for scrap lumber, old hula hoops, and a feed tub and purchase rocks & shells at a dollar store.
- Stream Trailer
- Rainfall Simulator
- Enviroscope

Evaluations

With five lessons taught in the classroom and six stations at your youth water day, the pre and post tests should reflect a significant change.

<http://water.tamu.edu/for-agents-specialists/>