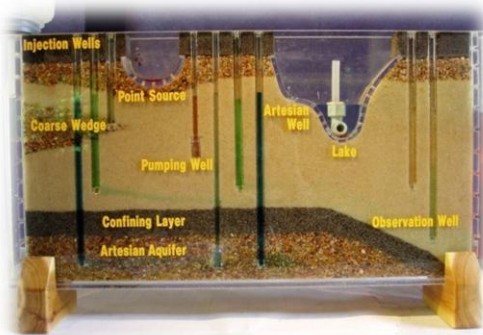


## Winnebago County Soil and Water Conservation District Educational Program Menu

*Most programs are best suited for grades 4-9 but can be accommodated for other grade levels.  
The SWCD requires at least one educator/adult to be present during the entire program.  
These programs are suited for both classes and youth groups (4Hers, Scouts, Clubs, etc)*

**Groundwater Model:** A table-top model which shows a cross-section of an aquifer system. This program discusses the water cycle, municipal and private water systems, supplying people with water, how groundwater gets polluted, and effects pollution can have on people and how water travels underground. Vocabulary includes aquifer, groundwater, water table, permeability and many more.

*SWCD Comments: This model takes 45-60 minutes and is most effective with 30 or less students at one time.  
We will need a water source and a table (slightly larger than a desk) to set the model on.*



**Enviroscape Model:** We all live in a watershed with water pollution coming from many sources. The combined effect of pollution from many small sources can have a real impact on the quality of our shared water resources. The model addresses stormwater runoff management using best management practices. Food products (cocoa and Kool-Aid mix) are used to demonstrate pollutants. **\*highly interactive\***

*This model takes approximately 45 minutes and is most effective with 25 or less students at one time. A large table and water source is needed.*



**What Is Your Watershed Address?** Students will become familiar with watersheds and the importance of water quality. They will be able to determine which watershed they are in and what bodies of water originate or feed into that watershed.

*This Watershed Address Activity takes approximately 30-45 minutes and can be done with any number of students in a traditional classroom setting. Moderately interactive.*

**Water Olympics:** Students compete in various hands-on activities that demonstrate water's cohesive and adhesive properties.

*Time required is 30-45 minutes and is best done with 30 or less students at once. Students can work independently or in pairs. \*highly interactive\**

**Water Jeopardy:** Game played just like television's "Jeopardy" to learn some fun facts about water.

*The time required for this friendly competition is 45-60 minutes and can be done with any number of students that may work independently or in groups. \*highly interactive\**

**The Incredible Journey:** With a roll of the dice, students simulate the movement of water within the water cycle. Role-playing a water molecule helps students to conceptualize the water cycle as more than a predictable two-dimensional path. \*highly interactive\*

*Time required is 45-60 minutes and is best done with less than 30 students at once. Water cycle stations will be placed throughout the room. Ensure obstacles are removed from the floor to avoid accidents (backpacks, books) as kids will be moving around the room from station to station. Students work through the program independently.*

**Forestry:** Several lesson plans and activities involving forest stewardship, ecology, color changes, forest uses/products, identification, State Tree (White Oak), seed dispersal, forest biodiversity, value of dead trees, how to plant a tree, people who work with trees, forest sustainability, and photosynthesis.

*Time required is 45-60 minutes. Choose up to 3 topics from above. Moderately interactive depending on the activity. Consult with SWCD for specific topic requests.*

**Aquatic Illinois:** Several lesson plans involving the water cycle, watersheds, water quality, surface water, groundwater, water as a resource, adaptations, and aquatic invertebrates. Water BINGO is also available.

*Time is dependent on subject matter but generally requires 45-60 minutes. Consult with SWCD for specific topic requests.*

**Helping People Understand Soils:** Several lesson plans involving ten key messages – soils perform vital functions, soil is the basis of the ecosystem, soil supports life, soil management affects soil quality, soils have unique properties important to their use, soil-forming factors determine the location and kind of soil, soil survey is a scientifically-based inventory, soils have limitations which must be understood, soil classification, and that soil science can be usefully incorporated into other studies.

*Can be conducted indoors or out. Time required is 30-45 minutes with less than 30 students at once. Moderately interactive.*

**Leopold Education Project:** Uses A Sand County Almanac as a Curriculum Guide that guides learning through direct observation of the natural world as it relates it to history, math and science.

*This collection of interactive activities require 45-60 minutes and can be conducted outside. Good for youth groups (Scouts, 4-Hers, school) but no more than 35 participants at one time.*

**Recycling/Composting:** Involves discussion of what is a landfill, how long items take to degrade in a landfill, what to recycle or compost, how things are recycled, plastic code, excessive packaging, paper vs. plastic bags, and making decisions when shopping.

*Time required is 45-60 minutes with less than 30 students at once. Moderately interactive.*

**Prairies:** Prairies were once the dominant landscape in Illinois. Now they are very rare. Make your students aware of the wonders of prairies with discussion of prairie soil (with an emphasis on the Illinois state soil), prairie grasses (with an emphasis on the Illinois State Grass), prairie forbs, plant rooting depths and organic matter.

*Time required is 45-60 minutes with less than 30 students at once. Moderately interactive.*

**Illinois State Symbols:** Photos, replicas, actual samples, and activity books are used in this presentation that teaches the Illinois State Symbols that are natural resources- animal, bird, tree, flower, insect, fish, prairie grass, soil, mineral, and reptile. For younger audiences, we have the educational State Symbol BINGO game.

*Time required is 45-60 minutes with less than 30 students at once. Moderately interactive*

**Rain barrels & Rain gardens:** Learn why it is important to harvest rainwater and encourage infiltration of rainwater throughout our community.

*Time required is 45-60 minutes with less than 30 students at once. Moderately interactive*

**If you would like to book a program, contact the:**

Winnebago County Soil and Water Conservation District  
4833 Owen Center Road  
Rockford, IL 61101-6007  
Phone: (815) 965-2392, Ext. 3

*You will need to fill out a  
Program Request Form which  
is on the SWCD Website*

Website: [www.winnebagoswcd.org](http://www.winnebagoswcd.org)