2017 Great Lakes



Children’s Water Festival

**To: Water Resource Specialists, Educators, and Enthusiasts!**

As specialists in the field of water or those areas impacting our water, we invite you to help Pennsylvania students make meaningful connections to their watershed at the 2017 Children’s Water Festival that is taking place on May 18, 2017 from 8:00a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Penn State Erie, the Behrend College campus. If you are interested and available to present a hands-on classroom presentation or activity, please return the enclosed form by **Fri, February 3rd, 2017**. Upon review of your proposal, we will be contacting you in late February to confirm your interest and plans.

**PURPOSE:** Our goal is to educate 5th grade students about the importance of water, including ground water, surface water, watersheds, water quality and water conservation through dynamic, interactive activities.  The students will learn that everyone has a role in water conservation and environmental protection.

**TARGET AUDIENCE:** 1,000 Fifth grade studentsfrom the Erie community.

**BACKGROUND:** The Children’s Water Festival is modeled after the Children’s Groundwater Festival. The Groundwater Foundation first initiated the children’s groundwater festival in 1989 to educate children about water and water issues through hands-on interactions with water professionals.

**FESTIVAL SPECIFICS:** The students will be divided into groups of 20-30, and each group will have a schedule of activities/times. In larger rooms and the activity hall, several groups may be combined. The classroom presentations, activities, and stage shows will last 25 minutes for each class with 5 minutes in between for class rotations. The Water Jamboree Activity Hall will run continuously with both indoor and outdoor activities. All groups will attend the festival 4 ½ hours. Guides, teachers, and chaperones will accompany all student groups. The location of your activity will be based on your needs, i.e. access to water, computers, etc. We will discuss this with you prior to assigning your room.

If you have a classroom activity, plan to present approximately 7-8 sessions. PLEASE BRING HELP SO YOU CAN TAKE BREAKS! Lunch will be provided for all presenters and volunteers. You will receive a schedule a few weeks before the festival so that you can plan accordingly. The schedule will include information on the exact times and number of sessions you will be presenting, the number of students attending and where the students are from.

**Great Lakes Children’s Water Festival**: Please remember, although you may be leading an activity that teaches about another resource topic (wildlife, agriculture, etc.) please connect it to water and specifically the Great Lakes when possible.

**OTHER ACTIVITY SPECIFICS:** Your activity should be:

* HANDS-ON OR BRAINS-ON: Please involve ALL students with either a hands-on (physical involvement) or brains-on (thinking) activity. Engage them and they will remember the concepts taught during your session.
* APPROPRIATE FOR FIFTH GRADE STUDENTS: Keep vocabulary and concepts SIMPLE. You may want to test your activity on a local classroom of fifth grade students that you know.
* FACTUAL: Do not provide information that is questionable or exaggerated.
* FUN AND INTERESTING

**If you would like to present, but do not have an activity, just let us know. We will send you several to pick from!**

**RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS:** Teachers love receiving additional materials and information for the classroom. If possible, please plan to provide handouts for teachers and other interested parties who visit your classroom.

**MORE DETAILS TO COME:** You will receive more information and announcements as the festival nears. We will be talking to you in late January to confirm your participation and details of your activity. If you have questions, contact our public education coordinator, Scott Sjolander, Penn State Extension Associate Educator. His contact information can be found on the attached registration form. Please help our students make meaningful connections to Lake Erie and all the Great Lakes!

If you are interested, please fill out the attached editable registration form below and return to Scott via email,

Sincerely

Ann Quinn

CWF – Penn State Erie, the Behrend College

abq1@psu.edu

814-898-6993

2017 Great Lakes



Children’s Water Festival

**Thursday, May 18, 2017**

**8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Penn State Erie, the Behrend College, Erie, PA**

**Please return this form by Fri, February 3rd, 2017 by Email to:**

Scott Sjolander, Penn State Extension, Associate Educator and Urban Forester

Email: sas305@psu.edu; Phone: 814-333-7460

**Name of Presenter(s):**

**Sponsoring Group/Organization:**

**Title of Presentation:**

**Address: City: State: Zip:**

**Phone: Email:**

**Presentation Specifics:**

**Please check one:**

* I have a presentation topic or activity
* I would like to present but do not have a presentation topic or activity

**Format:**

Classroom Presentation (25 minute sessions with a minimum of 7 sessions)

Water Activity Hall (continuous from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) *Please note: All activities in Water Activity Hall are 2-3 minute interactive stations with small groups of children that will rotate throughout various stations during a 25 minute session.*

**Water Focus:**

* Drinking Water
* Groundwater
* Surface Water
* Water Quality
* Watersheds
* Water Conservation

**Will you be using/needing classroom volunteers to assist you?**  Yes No How many?

Bringing own volunteers **OR** Requesting Volunteers from

**How will your activity or presentation relate to water issues in the any Erie County Watershed?** Visit <http://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/locate/index.cfm> for a profile of the watershed.

**What will you DO in your activity? Please describe in 30 words or less.** (This description may appear in various publications)

**Please provide a detailed description of your activity or presentation.** (Attach additional sheet if necessary)

**Please suggest one question that can be used in a pre- and post-test for the students. This question should be something the students will be able to answer following your presentation and should fit PA standards and anchors for 5th grade. Include both the question and answer.**

**Special Needs: Water, Electricity, tables, chairs, extra open space, AV equipment, internet access, etc.** (Please be specific)