



2016 Water Education Season Starting With Help From Awesome Facilitators

Each year approximately 7,000 3rd – 5th grade students get an opportunity to participate in Water Festivals throughout the State of North Dakota. This opportunity is thanks in part to an elite group of educators, natural resource professionals, retirees, and community leaders who serve as facilitators trained in the North Dakota Water Education and Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) Program. Without these well trained facilitators, we would not be able to offer quality hands-on and interactive educational programs to students.

North Dakota's Project WET Facilitators are located across the state, and often do more than one festival or training a year. All facilitators are required to attend an extensive Project WET Leadership Facilitator Training before becoming certified. Once trained, facilitators are authorized to plan, promote, develop and conduct a variety of water education programs for students and the general public. This creates opportunities for the public to become informed on North Dakota's water use and conservation practices.

In order to attend the training, new facilitator candidates are required to submit a formal application explaining their qualifications and interest in becoming a facilitator. Each candidate is also asked to complete a Project WET activity, present materials, and a summary of the activity at the workshop. All candidates sign a certificate of commitment to promote and provide Project WET and Explore Your Watershed opportunities in their communities. Once the candidates complete all of the requirements, they are certified as Project WET Facilitators for North Dakota's Water Education programs.

According to Tina Harding, Water Education Resource Program Manager at the State Water Commission, "We would not be able to offer as many water festivals or trainings across the state if we did not have this dedicated group of facilitators. They do an amazing job getting the message out to students through hands-on activities, that are not only fun, but are sound science demonstrations. These facilitators have one mission, and that is to bring awareness of the importance of good water stewardship and conservation to North Dakota."

Introducing just a few of the 35 active facilitators across the state.

David Marquardt – Elementary teacher at Lincoln Elementary in Fargo, ND – puts students’ water prowess to the test through the *H2Olympics*.

Angie Bartholomay – Science Department of Dakota College at Bottineau, Assistant Professor, Bottineau, ND – Explains the concept of the 100-year floodplain through the *High Water History Activity*.

Kim Belgarde – Elementary teacher at Bennett Elementary in Fargo, ND – Takes students on a water drop journey using the activity the *Incredible Water Journey*.

Virginia “Ginger” Dietz – Retired teacher from Fargo, ND - Demonstrates how much our bodies are composed of water and where water is found within our bodies through an activity called *Aqua Bodies*.

Leslie Hagemeister – Retired Library Media Specialist in Fargo, ND – Asks the students “*Would you drink this water?*” Students make observations of four water samples to determine which one they would drink.

Hank LaBore – Retired teacher and farmer, Selfridge, ND - Students experience water flow and human impacts on our watersheds by simulating the movement of water in a river system through an activity called *Blue Beads*.

Jim Jeske – Retired science teacher, Killdeer, ND - Students are able to describe the relationship between water quality and water treatment through the activity *Reaching Your Limits*.

Sharleen Stigen – Retired teacher, Fairfield, ND - Guides students in the activity *Long Haul* as they learn about daily water use and conservation in the late 1800s by hauling water and understanding water related artifacts.



All Project WET and Explore Your Watershed Activities are:

Interactive

Engagement through inquiry-based strategies.

Multi-sensory

Activities use as many senses as possible.

Adaptable

Can be completed in indoor/outdoor settings.

Contemporary

Activities incorporate higher-level thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making.

Relevant

Activities can be localized.

Solution-oriented

Activities link awareness to understanding to action.

Measurable

Activities provide simple assessments to measure student learning.

Scientifically Accurate

Activities are field-tested by educators, children, and experts.





Keeping Our Beaches Clean, It All Starts with You



Litter and broken glass on the beach in the Bismarck-Mandan area.

As we turn the page from winter to spring, and eventually to summer, many people cannot wait to get out and enjoy North Dakota's water resources. Water-related recreation is a big part of our summers here in North Dakota. That is why it is so important to "Keep Your Beaches Clean."

The "Keep Your Beaches Clean" campaign revolves around two ND Century Code rules, which the North Dakota Office of the State Engineer is responsible for enforcing. It is illegal to litter or possess glass containers on sovereign lands. Sovereign lands are those areas lying within the ordinary high water mark of navigable lakes and streams, including the beds and islands.

The fines are \$250 for littering and \$100 for possession of glass containers on sovereign lands. The goal is not to issue a lot of citations, but to protect our waters and beaches by keeping them an attractive and safe place to recreate.

As the spring and summer of 2016 arrive, the Office of the State Engineer will again be ramping up efforts to reduce littering and glass container violations on sovereign lands throughout the state through its "Keep Your Beaches Clean" campaign. The Missouri River will have signs posted at numerous access points to make the public aware that littering and the possession of glass containers on the river's beaches and sandbars is prohibited.

2016 marks the third season since educational signs were first installed in different locations along the Missouri River. Although there was a slight decrease in the number of citations that were issued regarding littering and glass bottle violations from 2014 to 2015, littering on sovereign lands is still an issue and, there is still a long way to go to reach a point where the littering issue is resolved.

To do your part, please do not bring glass bottles with you to the beaches and sandbars. When glass items are broken, it is impossible to recover all of the pieces from the sand. This creates a serious health hazard for the recreating public. Also, bring a trash bag with you to keep any of your trash contained. Whatever you bring with you, be sure to take it home. Also, you can go the extra mile and pick up a few pieces of trash that someone else might have left behind.

Anyone witnessing littering or glass container violations are encouraged to call the Report All Poachers line at 800-472-2121, and to inform violators that those acts are finable offenses.



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