

What do the students, teachers, and volunteers receive?

Every student, teacher and volunteer receives a free Groundwater Festival t-shirt. A t-shirt design contest is open to all the students attending. The winning entry's design will appear on the printed t-shirts and the winner and their teacher each receive a \$50 savings bond. In addition, each teacher receives a bag filled with free posters, curriculum booklets, and other environmental educational material.

Students Will Learn

- ♦ The role of surface and groundwater in the water cycle.
- ♦ The importance of water to all life.
- ♦ The interdependence of plants, trees, wildlife, soil and water.
- ♦ The effect of human actions on water and all nature.
- ♦ The need for responsible action. This includes issues related to water pollution and water conservation.

ALABAMA GROUNDWATER FESTIVAL PROGRAM

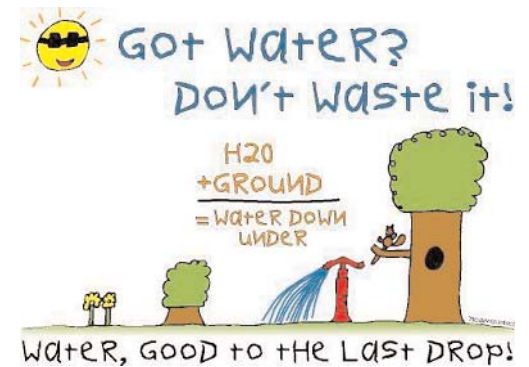


Presenting the award to the Geneva County Groundwater Festival T-shirt design contest winner and her teacher



Who to Contact?

Contact Enid Probst,
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Mission Statement

The mission of the festival is to educate students and their families about all aspects of groundwater and other related natural resources and to instill in them a general environmental awareness and stewardship ethic.



Who attends the Festival?

The event is offered to all fourth grade students and teachers in a county. It is felt that this age group is able to understand groundwater concepts, while still young enough to form their own value system. Each class participates in three hands-on groundwater activities and attends an exciting entertainment event. The activities are compatible with the 4th grade course of study and SAT objectives.



Festival Schedule

The Groundwater Festival is a one or two day, free, event for fourth grade students and teachers. Upon arrival to the festival, a volunteer will greet each class at the parking lot and will act as "Tour Guide" for the day. The Tour Guide will take the class to all their activities so classes will know where to go and will stay together. The students attend three 30-minute hands-on activities that may include building aquifers, wetlands, filtration systems, and water cycle systems. However, the festival content is adaptable to the communities needs. Each activity reinforces the lessons learned throughout the day. After the third activity, the classes will regroup to attend an educational entertainment event, which generally lasts 45 minutes. The entertainment is an opportunity for the classes to reconnect after several hours of hands-on activities and to enjoy entertainment



Magician Steve Trash performing at the Colbert County Festival

ment that pulls together everything they learned that day. The kids and their teachers leave upbeat and excited about what they have learned. Following the entertainment, the classes board the buses and return to school.

Who is Involved?

For an event of this magnitude to be successful, the assistance of many dedicated individuals is needed. Festival volunteers are called upon to lead, as well as serve in many different capacities. A volunteer base of 45 to 100 is vital to a smoothly run event. The planning team, activity presenters and tour guides are all volunteers that represent a cross-section of organizations and people across the county. Additional volunteer jobs include transportation logistics, organizing and distributing teacher resource materials, feeding the volunteers, publicity, as well as sorting and distributing activity materials to the presenters. The planning team will meet monthly for approximately 9 months to plan for and organize the event. The team is responsible for contacting schools and sponsors, sending out educational materials to teachers, choosing activities, conducting a student T-shirt design contest, reserving entertainers and securing a host facility. Funds for the event are raised through local sponsorship.



The Geneva County Festival Planning Team