

# Children's Water Festival

*The annual Children's Water Festival is a one-day event, heightening the awareness and importance of our most valuable resource — water. Each year about 1,000 fourth graders from Brown, Nicollet and Cottonwood Counties have the opportunity to participate in a fun-filled day of water-related activities at a Children's Water Festival. The day is filled with hands-on activities, an exhibit hall, and entertainment.*



Water Festivals have become an enormous success in Minnesota and around the country. The first water festival was sponsored by the Nebraska Groundwater Foundation in Grand Island in 1989. The BNC Water Quality Board held it's first festival in 1999, and has sponsored one each year since that time.

The annual Children's Water Festival is a one-day event, heightening the awareness of the importance of our most valuable resource — water. Approximately **1,000** fourth graders from Brown, Nicollet and Cottonwood Counties participate each year. Various aspects of water-related topics are taught through presentations, experiments, exhibits, games and entertainment.

Teachers appreciate the opportunity to bring their students to one location where many experts are available. They like the hands-on learning and field day atmosphere, and it allows teachers to obtain the most current information about water resources to take back to their classrooms.

Students have fun learning about water and are exposed to adult role models in water-related and environmental fields of employment and volunteerism.

The Water Festival is held each March at the South Central Technical College Campus in North Mankato and is led by a volunteer steering committee and many other support committees.

This ambitious event could not happen without the support and assistance of many dedicated professionals and volunteers from education, government, associations and businesses. They have contributed the time, money, goods and services needed to make the Water Festival possible.

## Examples of Classroom Sessions for Students



Bill Thompson, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, demonstrates how a stream might erode its banks or change its course due to obstructions like boulders or trees.



Carol Hubbard of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and her pal, Clancy the Mercury Sniffing Dog, after a long day of showing the students how they protect the environment by finding sources of potentially harmful mercury.



### Children's Water Festival Mission

Provide youth and classroom teachers with an innovative, quality, hands-on learning opportunity highlighting the relationship and interdependence of water to all living things. The major water issues addressed include health, recreation, nature, science, weather and land stewardship.

Students examine a watershed model (enviroscape) that demonstrates how different types of land use can impact water quality and ways to protect it.

For more information, contact Brown Nicollet Environmental Health at 507-934-4140