

About Soil and Water Conservation Districts...

Virginia's 47 Soil and Water Conservation Districts cover nearly all the state's land base - all counties, excluding one and 24 cities. Districts are subdivisions of state government that promote solutions to natural resources issues at the community level by encouraging consensus; collaborating efforts of state, federal and local resource agencies; and delivering conservation programs through citizen participation. A locally elected board of directors governs each conservation district, just as county supervisors represent the civic and social needs of citizens; districts serve their communities' natural resource concerns. In Virginia, 325 unpaid volunteer directors serve and direct more than 170 employees to deliver educational programs, provide technical assistance and promote demonstration projects. This network of community-based volunteers and conservation agencies represents an effective statewide partnership attuned to local conservation needs.



About Our Educational Programs...

Education programs sponsored by Soil and Water Conservation Districts provide opportunities for citizens of the Commonwealth to become good stewards of our environment and natural resources for the benefit of all.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts provide educational programs on the topics of soils, watersheds, aquatics, pollution, wildlife, conservation, agriculture awareness, forestry, etc. This cookbook outlines tips on how to carry out some of the great activities and projects produced by Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Programs that Soil and Water Conservation Districts conduct include Envirothon, Youth Conservation Camp, Soil and Water Stewardship Week and Natural Resource Conservation Week.

Envirothon - The Virginia Envirothon is a natural resources competition for high school students. Students who participate learn stewardship and management concepts and work to solve real and hypothetical environmental problems. The program is field oriented; community based and gives students an opportunity to work with natural resource professionals.

Youth Conservation Camp - High school'ers from throughout Virginia spend a week during July learning about conserving Virginia's natural resources. During the week long Youth Conservation Camp at Virginia Tech, students canoe the New River, explore a cave, and learn about new technologies and methods for protecting water quality. The program, sponsored by the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, includes field trips and hands-on study of soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatics, watershed management and how agricultural and urban land uses relate to water quality.

Soil and Water Stewardship Week – The last week in May dedicated by Soil and Water Conservation Districts to educate Virginians about protecting natural resources and preserving the environment for future generations.

Natural Resources Conservation Week - The third week in October dedicated by Soil and Water Conservation Districts to educate Virginians about protecting natural resources and preserving the environment for future generations.

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*** = 2007 ACTIVITY ADDITION**

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