



ORANGE COUNTY CHILDREN'S WATER EDUCATION FESTIVAL

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT: Gina DePinto, (714) 378-3228, gdepinto@ocwd.com

Twitter: www.twitter.com/OCWDWaterNews

Web Site: <http://waterfestival.ocwd.com/>

FREE WATER EDUCATION FESTIVAL FOR O.C. SCHOOLS NOW OPEN FOR REGISTRATION

Disneyland Resort is Presenting Sponsor of Two-Day Festival for Orange County 4th-6th Graders

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. – (Oct. 19, 2009) The Orange County Water District's (OCWD) Groundwater Guardian Team will present the 14th annual Children's Water Education Festival March 24-25, 2010, at the Richard Nixon Library & Birthplace Foundation in Yorba Linda. The Festival, which is the largest of its kind in the nation, educates Orange County's fourth, fifth and sixth grade students about water and the environment.

The Festival is provided at no cost to schools, making public and private financial support crucial to the success of this educational event and its continued growth. While the event is free, many schools are unable to attend because of transportation costs. An easy way for individuals and organizations in the community to support their neighborhood school is to help underwrite transportation costs, which generally runs \$300 to \$500 per bus. Contributions are tax deductible.

Presented by the Orange County Water District, Disneyland Resort, National Water Research Institute, Municipal Water District of Orange County and the Orange County Water District Groundwater Guardian Team, the mission of the Festival is to educate students about water-related and conservation issues that correspond to California Science Standards. The Festival teaches youth to think “blue” and make a difference in protecting our water resources for today, tomorrow and for future generations.

“The event is more than an opportunity to educate students about protecting and preserving our environment, groundwater and drinking water resources,” said Frank Dela Vara, Director, Environmental Affairs and Conservation for the Disneyland Resort, a Festival sponsor for 13 years. “It is a chance to plant seeds of knowledge that will help empower our youth to make a difference.”

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CHILDREN'S WATER EDUCATION FESTIVAL ADD 1-1-1

HOW TO REGISTER

Year after year, teachers return to the Festival with their classes to engage in a unique educational opportunity. This year, registration just got easier. Orange County teachers can register their classes online at <http://waterfestival.ocwd.com/>. Registration must be completed by December 11, 2009, however space is limited and selections are made on a first come, first served basis. Educators are strongly encouraged to submit applications as soon as possible.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Festival is a fun, environmental education program designed to teach students about the interdependence of water, soil, plants, trees, animals and humans. Interactive displays and activities feature topics like the water cycle, groundwater and surface water protection, wetlands preservation, recycling, pollution prevention and water treatment, distribution and conservation, and local environmental issues.

Conducting a Festival of this size requires more than 400 volunteers, staff and presenters, as well as in-kind and cash donations. Many of the schools that attend do not have transportation for field trips and must charter one or more buses. An easy way for individuals in the community to support their neighborhood school is to underwrite transportation costs, generally \$300 to \$500 per bus. Contributions are tax deductible.

In addition to cash and in-kind donations, presenters are needed to staff the Festival's interactive booths. Through hands-on activities students learn about the world in which they live and what they can do in their homes, communities and schools to protect our natural resources.

LOOKING FOR ENVIRONMENT, WATER, SANITATION, ENGINEERING, BLUE TECHNOLOGY, OCEAN EXPERTS

Festival organizers can assist presenters with the right tools, activities and partners to staff an activity booth. Volunteers also are needed during the two-day festival to help with a range of activities, from staffing registration tables to directing students to their next activity. The Festival is looking for 200 volunteers to work each day.

To sponsor, donate supplies, present an activity or volunteer, contact Gina Pineda at (714) 378-3323 or gpineda@ocwd.com. To register, go to <http://waterfestival.ocwd.com/>.

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A list of presenters and sponsors from the 2009 Children's Water Education Festival is attached below.



2009 Children's Water Education Festival

Thank You to our Sponsors and Activity Presenters

Presenting Sponsors:

Disneyland Resort
Municipal Water District of Orange County
National Water Research Institute
Orange County Water District
OCWD Groundwater Guardians

Title Sponsors:

Santa Ana Watershed Association

Signature Sponsors:

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Orange County Recycled Used Oil Program

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Orange County Stormwater Program
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PACE
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Tetra Tech
The Island Golf Center
The Gas Company
Trojan Technologies
Wells Fargo Foundation
Yorba Linda Water District



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Presenters:

Anaheim Ducks
Anaheim Fire Department
Anaheim Public Utilities
Arctic Natural Waters
Bolsa Chica Conservancy
California Department of Boating & Waterways
California Waterfowl Association
Caltrans
City of Irvine
City of Newport Beach, Harbor Resources
City of Santa Ana
County of Orange
Department of Conservation, Division of Recycling
Department of Fish and Game, Back Bay Science Center
Discovery Science Center
Disneyland Resort Environmental Affairs and Conservation
Disneyland Resort Horticulture
Earth Adventure
EarthCapades Environmental Vaudeville
Green Earth Magic Show (GEMS Inc.)
Inside the Outdoors
Irvine Ranch Water District
Knowledge Learning Corp.
Lakeview Elementary School/Hurley
Mad Science
Mesa Consolidated Water District
Metropolitan Water District
Municipal Water District of Orange County
Newport Harbor Nautical Museum
Orange County Natural History Museum
Orange County Transportation Authority
Orange County Used Oil Recycling Program
Orange County Water District
Orange County Zoo
Outdoor Education Center
Rainforest Café
RBF Consulting
Richard Nixon Library & Birthplace Foundation
Riverside County Flood Control
Rock Steady Juggling
Santa Ana Watershed Association
Sierra Club
The Dr. Wilderness Show, Inc.
University of California, Irvine/CLEAN Education
Urban Water Research Center
US Army Corps of Engineers
Water Quality Control Board
Wild Wonders Inc.
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