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MEDIA ALERT

7,000 ORANGE COUNTY STUDENTS TO LEARN ABOUT STEM CAREERS AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP FROM LEADING GLOBAL EXPERTS

WHAT: The nation's largest water education festival will celebrate its 22nd anniversary of educating students about water and the environment. The Children's Water Education Festival is a free field trip for Orange County's third, fourth and fifth grade students. Hosted by the Orange County Water District (OCWD), Disneyland Resort, the National Water Research Institute, and the OCWD Groundwater Guardian Team, it is a two-day event that has educated more than 122,000 students since its inception.

WHY: The Festival is hosted to educate students about local water issues and helps them understand how they can protect water supplies and the environment. These topics are vitally important as California endures cyclical drought and natural resources are depleting. It is essential to invest in educating the next generation of leaders to solve these environmental challenges.

WHO: It takes a village to organize and implement this award-winning event that serves 7,000 students accompanied by 700 teachers and chaperones. The students are from 80 different Orange County schools that represent 24 cities throughout the county. Local sponsors such as, Wells Fargo, along with about 40 other companies play a huge part in the event's success. Throughout the two-day event, more than 500 dedicated volunteers help make it come to life, along with nearly 60 public and private organizations that provide interactive educational presentations to the students. The individuals who lead the presentations are local and global experts. **Among these experts are Astrobiologist and National Geographic Emerging Explorer Kevin Hand, Host of Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom Stephanie Arne and Science Bob, a science teacher, author and regular guest on Jimmy Kimmel Live!**

**Interviews: There are many prestigious organizations and individuals that are a part of this event. Interviews are welcomed and may be arranged in advance or on-site.*

WHEN: 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., **Wednesday, March 28, 2018**

8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., **Thursday, March 29, 2018**

**Photo Ops: From 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (weather permitting) thousands of children will arrive and be greeted by Disney characters. The best time to take photos of students learning through hands-on activities is from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.*

HOW: The Festival is a highly structured event. Beginning at 9:30 a.m., and every 30 minutes thereafter, classes rotate to a different activity, which is taught by a representative from the participating public and private organizations. Each class engages in approximately six activities throughout the day. The activity curriculum corresponds with Next Generation Science Standards.

WHERE: The Festival will take place, rain or shine, at the University of California, Irvine, inside Aldrich Park. This is the sixth year the event will be held at UCI and the first time many of these elementary students will visit a university campus.

www.childrenwaterfestival.com
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