

## About the SWCD

Soil & Water Conservation Districts, (SWCD's) are local units of government that provide technical information on soil and water conservation to the public.

The Kane County Soil and Water Conservation District was formed in 1944 and later combined with DuPage County to become the Kane-DuPage SWCD.

## Education Opportunities

The Soil and Water Conservation District provides a variety of outreach programs for K-12 classrooms, home schools, and scout groups. Programs are interdisciplinary, aligned to the state learning standards, and can be designed to meet the needs of classroom curriculum. Possible outreach program topics include, but are not limited to the topics listed in this brochure.

## Program Fees

Programs are \$40 for the first class and \$20 for each additional class visited on the same day.

Scout programs are \$40 for up to 12 children and \$2.00 for each additional child.

*\*Low income schools call for special rates.*

## How to Schedule

Typical program length is between 45-60 minutes. To schedule a program, call the Soil and Water District office at (630)584-7961 Ext. 3. Please call at least two weeks in advance of desired program date.

[www.kanedupageswcd.org](http://www.kanedupageswcd.org)



Kane-DuPage Soil and Water  
Conservation District  
2315 Dean St.  
Suite 100  
St. Charles, IL 60175  
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## Education Programs



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**Wonderful Water**

Water is a key element for all life. Learn about the physical properties of water, how we use this precious natural resource and the importance of water conservation.

*Appropriate for early and late elementary school*

**H2O on the Go**

The water that we drink today is the same water dinosaurs drank years ago. Follow water's endless journey through the water cycle and learn how the water we use gets to us.

*Appropriate for early and late elementary school*

**Who Dirtied the Water?**

Pollution is more than just litter, it includes any type of contamination to land, air, or water and effects the natural resources on which we depend. Through use of a model students will investigate sources of point and nonpoint source pollution as well as some ways to prevent it.

*Appropriate for late elementary through high school*

**Groundwater: Our Hidden Treasure**

Nearly half of Illinois' residents use groundwater from wells for drinking. Activities on the land have an impact on the quality water stored underground. Learn about groundwater and its role in the water cycle. Students will see groundwater in action through a demonstration using a groundwater model.

*Appropriate for late elementary through high school*

**Dirt Decomposers**

Did you know there is more life underground than above? A teaspoon of soil contains more than a billion organisms! Students will discover the world beneath their feet as they investigate plants, animals, and fungus that help recycle plant nutrients and form soil.

*Appropriate for early and late elementary school*

**Dig Deeper into Soils**

Soil is more than the loose brown stuff underneath our feet. There are many different types of soil with distinct textures and colors. Students will get their hands dirty as they investigate the formation, components and importance of soil.

*Appropriate for late elementary through middle school*

**The Changing Landscape**

Kane and DuPage counties have experienced huge growth and development. Students will use historical aerial photos and maps to learn how the area has changed over time and the effects that these land use changes have on the natural resources.

*Appropriate for late elementary through high school*

**Tree-mendous**

Plants help support life! Not only do they provide us with oxygen, they provide homes and food for wildlife, help prevent soil erosion, and provide many products we use every day. This program will expose students to the diversity, function, and importance of trees and other plants.

*Appropriate for early through late elementary school*

**Envirothon**

Envirothon is an annual competition which gives high school students the opportunity to learn about the environment and the role of individuals in natural resource management. Local competition is held in early April.

**Stewardship Poster Contest**

Students can express their thoughts about natural resources through artwork with the Stewardship Poster Contest. The grand-prize winner and first runner-up in each grade division receive gift certificates. Information is sent to schools in February each year.

**Arbor Day Mini-Grant**

The Arbor Day mini-grant is a reimbursable grant to be used for celebrations and/or the purchase of trees, plants and related materials for schools in Kane and DuPage Counties. Applications are due in October each year.

**Trees for Schools**

The SWCD offers one tree seedling to help elementary schools in Kane and DuPage Counties celebrate Arbor Day. The 12-18 inch tree comes in a one gallon pot. Order forms are sent to schools in February each year.

**Storm Drain Stenciling**

Storm drain stenciling is an excellent project for school and scout groups. Painting the highly visible message, "Dump no Waste, Drains to Stream" next to storm drains helps to alert the community to the fate of stormwater. Kits can be picked up at the SWCD office.