



## Conservation Education

Union County Soil & Water offers environmental education programs throughout the year for students of all ages. All programs are place-based and utilize STEM, inquiry-based methods. All programs are correlated to NC Essential Standards as well. The programs below are learning opportunities for students during school hours to support the curriculum already being taught in the classroom.

## Environmental Education Programs Offered

STEM Curriculum		
Title	Grade	Description
We All Need Trees	K	Properties and Change: Understanding how objects made from trees are described and used <b>(K.P.2.2)</b>
Which Rock	K	Properties and Change: Understand how objects are described based on their physical properties and how they are used. <b>(K.P.2.1)</b>
NC Wildlife Wonders	1 <sup>st</sup>	Ecosystems: Understanding characteristics of environments to meet animal needs <b>(1.L.1.2)</b>
Soggy Soils	1 <sup>st</sup>	Earth Systems, Structures and Processes: Compare the properties of soil samples from different places relating their capacity to retain water, nourish and support the growth of certain plants. <b>(1.E.2.2)</b>
The Life of a Pollinator	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Structures and Functions of Living Organisms: Understanding animal life cycles <b>(2.L.1.1 &amp; 2.L.1.2)</b>
Dig Into Soil	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ecosystems: Understanding how plants survive their environments <b>(3.L.2.4)</b>
Nothing Succeeds Like Succession NC Wildlife Wonders	4 <sup>th</sup>	Ecosystems: Understanding the effects of environmental changes and adaptations <b>(4.L.1.1)</b>
The Incredible Journey	5 <sup>th</sup>	Properties & Change: Understanding the sun's impact on the water cycle <b>(5.P.2.1)</b>
The Web of Life	6 <sup>th</sup>	Ecosystems: Understanding the flow of energy through ecosystems and the response of populations <b>(6.L.2.1)</b>
The Incredible Journey	7 <sup>th</sup>	Earth Systems, Structures and Processes: Understanding how the cycling of matter in and out of the Earth's atmosphere relates to weather and climate <b>(7.E.1.2)</b>
Oh Deer!	8 <sup>th</sup>	Energy: Conservation and Transfer: Explain the environmental implications associated with managing resources <b>(8.P.2.2)</b>
Renewable or Not? Water Quality? Ask the Bugs! Cows or Condos? Till We or Won't We?	High School	Can be customized to fit student's needs.

# Curriculum Resources

Project Learning Tree (PLT)

Project WET

Project WILD

Project Food, Land, and People (FLP)

## Additional Opportunities

Conservation Contests (3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade)

**2021 Theme: We All Live in a Watershed- Deadline: January 29, 2021**

-Union County SWCD offers hands-on classroom programs to help prepare students for participation in Conservation Contests. Entries will be accepted on a rolling basis up to the deadline. Full details, including information on prizes and entry guidelines, are available through our office or at

<http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/educational/index.html>

Bookmark Contest (K-2<sup>nd</sup>):

**2021 Theme: Watersheds-Deadline: January 29, 2021**

Each year a new age-appropriate theme is chosen by Union County SWCD. The winning student has a treat delivered to their class!

After School Programs:

In addition to classroom programming, UCSWCD also offers activities and presentations for afterschool programs and camps on a natural resource topic of your choice. We also help train clubs and teams such as FFA, forestry teams, and WHEP.

Envirothon (5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>):

Envirothon is the largest environmental competition in North America. Students compete at the middle and high school level in teams of five from public, private, or home schools as well as FFA or 4-H groups. UCSWCD provides support to teams and their advisors as needed, primarily through hands-on training on the Envirothon curriculum in the subjects of forestry, wildlife, soils, aquatics, and current environmental issues.

For more information about NC Envirothon visit: <https://sites.google.com/site/envirothonnc/home>

Resource Conservation Workshop:

The Resource Conservation Workshop is a five day summer program hosted at NC State University every year. The program targets rising Juniors and Seniors who are interested in natural resources careers. Each year, UCSWCD supports our local students by offering full scholarships covering the program cost. To apply, students must submit to our office an application as well as an essay (250 words or less) describing their interesting in conversation. Applications can be found at:

<http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/educational/documents/APPLICATIONFORM.pdf>

Resource Lending Library (K-12 Educators):

Union County SWCD has various themed resource boxes available for checkout by educators. Packed with everything you need from lesson plans to supplies, these boxes make bringing forestry, soils, wildlife, and the water cycle into your classroom easy. Field guides and measurement tools are also available for checkout.

### Professional Development

UCSWCD trains educators in the Project WET, Project Food, Land, and People, Project Learning Tree, Leopold Education Project, NAAEE Guidelines for Excellence, and other curriculums. CEU's and EE Certification Credits are available. Contact us to schedule a workshop. (Some workshops are now being offered virtually as well).

For more information, contact:

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