

GREY BRUCE CHILDREN'S WATER FESTIVAL



PLANNING GUIDE FOR VOLUNTEERS

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OUR MISSION

“ To cultivate in every child and adult who participates in the Festival an understanding of and appreciation for the water they use and the environment in which they live. ”

Introduction

Volunteers are an essential part of the Grey Bruce Children’s Water Festival. Each day of the festival, more than 100 volunteers deliver activities and help create a new generation of 1500 water stewards in Grey and Bruce counties. This Guide prepares volunteers for participation in the Festival.

The Grey Bruce Children’s Water Festival inspires students to become water stewards in their classrooms and communities. By combining hands-on activities with messages relevant to their daily lives, students will “soak up” knowledge about the properties, uses, connections, and importance of water. Equipped with this knowledge, students become aware of the value of conserving and protecting water.

Festival Volunteers and Organizers

Volunteer high school students run activities, with support from adult volunteers from our member organizations.

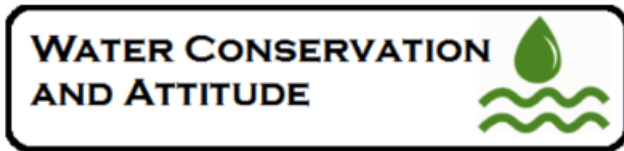
Festival organizers – identifiable by their festival shirts – are located throughout the site to oversee the festival and provide assistance.

Festival Purpose

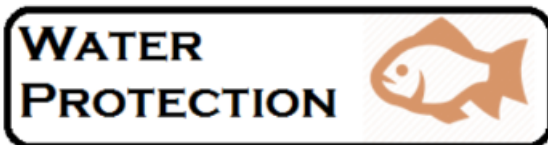
The key message of the Children's Water Festival is 'All living things need clean water to survive'. Activities are grouped into three themes with three key messages that are repeated throughout the festival to reinforce these learning objectives to the students.

All activities:

- Reflect the beliefs that guide education in our region – accountability, quality, equity, partnerships, and a safe environment;
- Are connected to the curriculum in ways that help students achieve the desired outcomes;
- Are designed to be hands-on and experiential to enhance and personalize the learning experience.



1. We can both protect and pollute water.
2. There is a limited supply of fresh water on earth.
3. Using water wisely saves money and energy and is good for the environment.



1. It is easy to pollute water and much harder to clean it.
2. All living things depend on natural habitats. Protecting them protects water.
3. Clear water doesn't always mean clean water.



1. Water occurs naturally as a solid, liquid, and gas.
2. Water is found everywhere, in the air, on the ground, and underground.
3. We use science and innovation to clean and move water.

Planning for the Festival

A Typical Day at the Festival

A great day at the festival requires some advanced planning. With more than 500 students and 100+ volunteers on-site each day, and nearly 50 activities spread out throughout the grounds, flexibility and patience is necessary.

8:30 a.m.	Volunteers arrive at Chesley Community Centre and report to Volunteer Headquarters. Complimentary beverages provided.
8:45 a.m.	Activity stewards lead volunteers to their activity centre for hands-on training and practice presenting with their partner.
9:30 a.m.	Students arrive and visit activities throughout the site, spending approximately 10 minutes at each activity.
11:30 a.m.	Activities close for lunch. Volunteers enjoy complimentary lunch in the Volunteer Headquarters.
12:10 p.m.	Volunteers return to their activities and get ready for students to visit beginning at 12:20 p.m.
2:00 p.m.	Activities close. Volunteers clean and organize activities for the next day.
2:15 p.m.	Volunteers depart site.

Site Considerations

The Festival is held rain or shine! Please come prepared for ALL weather as most activities are outside.

- Wear layers of clothing that you don't mind getting dirty or wet.
- Wear comfortable footwear as you will spend most of the day standing.

There is no food for sale on site. Lunch is provided, but if you have specific dietary restrictions or a healthy appetite bring along your own "peanut free" snacks.

Leave valuables at home as there is no secure area for storage.

Volunteer Commitment

As a volunteer you have made a commitment to the Water Festival that you will be there to facilitate an activity. The Festival is counting on you! While we understand unexpected events may occur, it is difficult to run activities when volunteers do not show up. Once you commit, please make every effort to attend and advise us early of any change in plans.

At the Festival

Upon arrival, please register at Festival Headquarters, pick up your pinnie and nametag, and meet your Activity Steward. Pinnies must be returned at the end of the day! Carefully read through your activity description sheet. It gives you all the information you need to lead your activity. If you have any questions ask your Activity Steward.

Basic Rules

- SAFETY FIRST! Advise your Activity Steward of any safety concerns.
- Wear your nametag and volunteer pinnie outside your clothes at all times.
- You must be present on site from 8:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.
- Please co-operate with and listen to your Activity Steward. They are there to help.
- Use proper language at all times.
- Do not wear sunglasses, as eye contact with the students is important.
- Do not chew gum while teaching.
- No smoking / vaping on site.

Activity Delivery Tips

- Each activity sheet includes key messages. Use them throughout your discussion.
- The 'Example Script' for each activity helps direct you through the activity. Adjust it as needed to suit your style and delivery.
- Find as many roles as possible for students to actively participate (e.g., timing, pouring, counting).
- Students need to understand how your topic relates to them early in the activity. Make complex ideas simple by using comparisons with everyday objects & events.
- Use simple language that can be understood by young students.
- Speak loudly and clearly.
- When you ask a question, give students enough time to think about an answer.
- If you are asked a question and you don't know the answer, don't fake it! Tell them "That's a great question. I don't know the answer, but maybe you could research it when you are back at school." Your Activity Steward may be able to assist.
- At the end of the activity, try to reconnect the activity's key messages with the students' everyday actions such as what they and their families do at home, how their actions affect clean water and wildlife habitat, etc.
- The [festival website](#) provides additional information about the activities, and links to resources to build on the festival's messages.

Thank You to our Volunteers!

In recent years, the following **organizations** have supported the festival through many hours of volunteer efforts. We couldn't do it without you and we are extremely grateful for your ongoing commitment.

Bruce Power
Chesley Fire Department
Grey Bruce Public Health
Grey Sauble Conservation Authority
Hatten Home Hardware
Municipality of Arran-Elderslie
D.A.C. Checker Produce
Ontario Clean Water Agency
Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority
South East Grey Community Health Centre
Springhills Fish
Veolia
Walkerton Clean Water Centre

Hundreds of volunteer **students** from area schools keep the activities running year after year. Thank you to everyone who has helped us build a network of Grey Bruce water stewards!

Georgian Bay Community School
John Diefenbaker Senior School
Owen Sound District Secondary School
St. Mary's High School
Walkerton District Community School