Shenandoah Valley SWCD: Educational Programs

Megen Dalton
District Manager
Soil & Water Conservation Districts

• 47 Conservation Districts in the State
  • Programs and Service vary from District to District
  • SWCDs are considered political subdivisions of the Commonwealth
  • SWCDs are governed by a board of elected directors

• Shenandoah Valley Soil & Water Conservation District
  • Serves Page and Rockingham Counties and City of Harrisonburg
  • Mission: To promote stewardship and conservation of our natural resources
VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

We work with the people who work the land.
Available Support & Services

- Programs and services vary by SWCD
- Staff # and duties vary by SWCD
- Contact your local office to learn more about what they offer

Shenandoah Valley SWCD Services

- Grant Support
- Teacher Workshop Assistance
- Teacher In-services
- Assistance with field experiences
- Partnerships
- Technical Resource
SVSWCD Educational Programs

- Educational Resources: Posters, Models, Kits
- Scholarship Programs: Local and State
- Youth Conservation Camp Sponsor
- Forestry Camp Sponsor
- Poster Contest
- Envirothon
- Teacher of the Year Program
- Classroom Presentations
- Field Trips & MWEEs
Resources
Scholarships

- Local and State Scholarships
- For graduating high school students with interest in natural resources conservation
- Local & State Applications due Early Spring (March)
Youth Conservation Camp

- Held at Virginia Tech every summer
- For students currently enrolled in grades 9 -12
- July 10-16, 2016
- Local SVSWCD Applications due April 29, 2016
- Scholarships sometimes offered by SVSWCD
Forestry Camp

- Held annually at the Holiday Lake 4-H Center located in the Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest
- Field experiences for students ages 13-16 with an interest in natural resources
  - Classes are taught in the woods by natural resource professionals
  - Courses include:
    - Sustainable Forest Management
    - Forest Ecology
    - Reforestation and Tree Improvement
    - Tree Measurements and Identification
- June 20-25, 2016
- Applications due to DOF-Early Spring
Poster Contest

- Entries accepted from K-12th grade
- 2016 Topic – “We All Need Trees”
- Local winners are submitted to state contest
- Posters Due April 29, 2016
- Monetary Prizes
Envirothon

- Environmental Based Competition
  - Soils, Forestry, Wildlife, Aquatics, Special Issue
- Local, Area, State & National Contests
What is Envirothon?

- Hands-on environmental problem solving competition traditionally for high school students
- Teams rotate between hands-on stations to be tested in five areas
  - Wildlife
  - Soils
  - Aquatics
  - Forestry
  - Environmental Issue/Oral Presentation
How to request services from the SVSWCD

- Google Form on Website under Education/Outreach Tab
- Try to submit request at least one month in advance
- Specify the SOL/Learning Objectives
Welcome to the Shenandoah Valley Soil & Water Conservation District!

The Shenandoah Valley District is one of 47 Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Shenandoah Valley District was founded in 1940 and served Augusta, Page, and Rockingham Counties and the Cities of Harrisonburg, Staunton, and Waynesboro. In 1975, the Headwaters District was created and began serving Augusta County and the Cities of Staunton and Waynesboro.
We work with people who work the land.
What do you as teachers need?

- Resources?
- Classroom Support?
- Field Experience Support?
Communication

Is the key to success!

- We encourage different departments to consult and communicate their needs when requesting service.
  - This allows for and help ensures that both departments to benefit from our services.
- How to communicate with SVSWCD?
  - Email, website-Google Form, phone call, other?
Other Local Resources & Partners

- Online Resources: [www.vaswcd.org](http://www.vaswcd.org)
- State Parks
- Other Agencies/Technical Experts
  - DOF
  - VCE
  - DEQ
  - DCR
  - VDACS
  - NRCS
  - DGIF
  - FSA
Conservation Districts

- Provide support and resources related to conservation and environmental education
- Clearinghouse of information
- Partnership Opportunities
- Connection to grants and funding opportunities