



Dear Educators:

RiverQuest and 3 Rivers Wet Weather are pleased to team up on providing an environmental program—Understanding Our Watershed—for Kennywood's Education Day on Tuesday, May 25, 2010.

For students, we understand the importance of learning through fun and interactive experiences. For teachers, we recognize the significance of working to meet state standards for environmental education. We hope our educational watershed program will help to accomplish both goals.

Register for one of our sessions at 10:00, 10:15, 10:30, 10:45, 11:00, 11:15 or 11:30 a.m. for a short, lively watershed presentation that will answer such questions as: What is a watershed? What is the condition of our watershed? How do everyday activities affect the quality of our water? How can each of us protect the water we use and drink everyday?

To help students begin thinking about these important issues, we have developed a watershed quiz (available under educational materials). We encourage you to have your students complete the quiz in advance and bring it to the table for a special gift. Students will also have an opportunity to see samples of our region's water polluted by litter, raw sewage and household chemicals, and view plankton under microscopes. An interactive watershed model will help them learn how they play an important role in protecting our water quality.

As two organizations committed to educating individuals about the importance of protecting our watershed, 3 Rivers Wet Weather and RiverQuest together are eager to share their experiences and educational information with your students.

Since its creation in 1998, 3 Rivers Wet Weather has worked with Allegheny County communities to address the sewage and stormwater overflow problem. During nearly every rainfall or snow melt, excess water gets into municipal sewer systems and overflows untreated sewage into area streams and Pittsburgh's three rivers, which are a major drinking water source for nearly one million people.

Every day onboard the RiverQuest fleet, student groups cast off for a scientific adventure as field researchers testing for water chemistry and observing and identifying microscopic and macroscopic forms of river life, all to draw conclusions about river health. Since 1995, nearly 85,000 students have participated in RiverQuest programs.

We hope you plan to stop by the RiverQuest/3 Rivers Wet Weather table for what promises to be an interesting and enlightening program on watersheds. In the meantime, feel free to access our respective web sites for more educational information on our region's water quality. See you on May 25!

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