

## The Function of the Conservation District



To take available technical, financial, and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local landuser for conservation of soil, water, and related sources.

“Conservation, Development, Self-Government” is the theme of the District movement, symbolizing the dedication of district officials to purposeful, constructive action in the field of conservation, resource development, and grassroots leadership—fundamental to American growth and prosperity.

The Whitley County Conservation District takes great pride in its conservation education programs. We encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities to teach your students the benefits of conservation.

We try our very best to make all of these services a part of our annual plan of operations and budget. Before applying, please ensure availability.

As always, our time and information are free.

If you would like more information on any of these programs, or if you have any suggestions of other activities to include, please contact us.

We're ready to work with you to educate our children, our future.



# Whitley County Conservation District



## Education Services & Outreach

To help you plant the seeds of tomorrow.

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## Contests

The **Jim Claypool Conservation Art and Writing Contest** provides the opportunity for students to receive conservation education in forestry, wildlife, soils, and water. Tabloids are made available online in September and are due for local judging the first week of December. Prizes are awarded on a county, area, and state level.

The annual **National Conservation Poster Contest** provides middle school and high school students an opportunity to convey their thoughts about soil, water and related natural resources issues through art. The contest theme follows the annual Stewardship theme. Information is made available in September and entries are due for local judging the first week of November. Prizes are awarded on a county, state, and national level.

The **Enviroscape** is a portable, hands-on watershed model to help students better understand the sources and prevention of water pollution. The Enviroscape makes the connection between what we do and our impact on the environment. Storm-water pollution and runoff are visibly apparent when rain falling over the landscape carries soil (cocoa), chemicals (drink mixes), and oil through a watershed to a body of water. Use as a stand-alone environmental educational program or easily fits within any existing education plan.



## Outreach

We want to visit with you! We would be happy to participate in your **Career Fair, Science Fair, Earth Day Celebration**, or any event you wish to have vendors and/or organizations attend. We are available to set up a fun display with age and topic-specific material, along with free goodies the students are sure to love!

Our **Conservation Educational Materials** span many topics regarding natural resources, including soil, water, trees, habitats, and more. These fun and colorful materials are available for grades K-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6 and up.

We can also put together complimentary **Gift Bags** of our materials for your classroom, extra-curricular activity clubs, and even your Sunday School class. Especially relevant for your private or church-supported school is **Soil and Water Stewardship Week**, which is celebrated each year between April and May. Materials vary each year, but always emphasize the true meaning of stewardship; the personal and social responsibility we share. Through education regarding our natural resources, we learn to use them wisely; by caring we can achieve material and spiritual growth in our lives, and leave a rich legacy for future generations.



Looking for a DVD on a specific topic to play in your classroom? Our **DVD Loan Program** may be useful. Videos are formatted for high school students and are on very concentrated topics. Here is a sample of what is in our library:

*Helping People Understand Soils*

*Protection of Soil and Water Resources*

*Land of Life (A celebration of wildlife habitat on private lands.)*

## Awards & Sponsorships

If you need financial assistance with your **Outdoor Classroom**, the District may be able to help you. We ask that you follow our application process to request funding in this reimbursement program, including itemized costs and pictures. A site visit by District representatives before approval and after completion is mandatory.

If you are or know a teacher who has implemented innovative soil and water conservation activities, we will assist you and submit their application for **Kentucky Conservation Education Teacher of the Year**. Nominees must be full-time K-12 teachers. Nominations are accepted until May 1st.

## Scholarships College

Applications are due to the District office by February 1st. These scholarships of \$1,000 are provided by the KACD Auxiliary.

The **George Crafton Memorial Scholarship** is awarded to any high school senior who is enrolled to attend college and intends to major in the fields of agriculture or conservation of natural resources.

**Conservation of Natural Resources Scholarship** is awarded to any student enrolled in college who has declared a major in the fields of agriculture or conservation of natural resources.

**Betty Barrick Conservation of Natural Resources Scholarship For Non-Traditional Students** is awarded to any student at least 25 years old and pursuing an undergraduate degree in agriculture or related natural resources field.

## Summer Camp



The **Forest Leadership Program** is for students who will be in grades 11–12 next fall. This week-long, intense learning camp is suggested for those students truly interested in pursuing a career in forestry. Applications are due April 1st to the District office.

Likewise, the **Forest Entomology Leadership Program** is for students meeting the same criteria, but who have already attended the Forest Leadership Program. Applications are due April 1st to the District office.

For the youngsters, **Conservation Camp** is open to all students who are 10 years old by June 1 and who have not exceeded their 14th birthday. Applications are due to the District office by March 1st.