

Beaver Creek Regional Council Water Committee Report – August 2008

Chris Moran from Chip Davis' office is organizing a Water Festival to be held this October for fourth grade students from the Verde Valley and two schools in Sedona. This Water Festival, officially titled, Arizona Make a Splash with Project Wet Water Festivals, has been held in various Arizona communities each year since 2002. But this is the first time for the Verde Valley.

The curriculum for the festival was developed by the **Water Resources Research Center** of the **University of Arizona College of Agriculture and Life Sciences**. They coordinate the festivals and additional water education materials for the teachers to use in their classrooms prior to, and after the festival.

Interactive science-focused activities engage students in learning about groundwater, water use and conservation, watersheds, and the water cycle. Each activity is correlated to state instructional standards and instills appreciation of this valuable resource and the need to become responsible water stewards.

The **Water Festival** will be held at **Dead Horse State Park** on **October 23rd**. Fourth grade students from Cottonwood, Clarkdale, Camp Verde, Cornville, Beaver Creek and Sedona will be participating. There will be approximately 600 children attending in two shifts. The first shift from 9:00 – 11:00 in the morning and the second from 11:30 – 1:30.

While the University of Arizona provides models, banners, and some materials, we have the responsibility for consumable materials, transportation costs, rental of facilities, garbage pickup, porta-johns, etc. So there is a need to solicit funding from various organizations, companies and private individuals if this festival is to take place.

While I know the BCRC funds are short, I was hoping that the groups who comprise the BCRC, Kiwanis, LMPOA, Friends of the Well, etc., could possibly help contribute to this effort. Perhaps some local businesses might want to get involved as well, as it is tax deductible. There are a number of levels of sponsorship, each with different advantages, i.e., your organization/company is printed on the T-shirts, banners, in local press releases, you get to have some organization items (like fridge magnets) added to the student packages, etc. We can also accept in-kind donations which are also tax deductible. For instance, someone has donated the porta-johns. We will need coffee and breakfast items for the first shift of volunteers and lunch for the second. Batteries, copying services, hand soap, activity signs, etc. Even a small donation of \$50 would be helpful. Chris has made up a budget of \$8,853.

As well as monetary donations, we need volunteers to help.

Some tasks need to be done before the festival, like stuffing the children's bags, set-up the day before, delivering materials and the like. The day of the festival we need bus greeters, time keepers, check-in people, photo and video folks, clean-up and just general monitoring of kids.

I will provide the sponsor level handout at the Aug. 6th meeting, as well as a few brochures. I'm hoping lots of us can get involved as our fourth graders from Beaver Creek School will be attending. Contact info is as follows:

General Information

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Monetary or in-kind donations

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Volunteers

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From Kayo