

Arizona Department of Water Resources

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For Immediate Release:
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Janet Napolitano,
Governor
Herb Guenther,
Director

NEWS

RELEASE

Public Information Office
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Water Resources: Focus on education

The Arizona Department of Water Resources is reaching out to the school children of the state in order to tell the story of water in its many forms.

Tonight, during the Arizona Public Service "Educator Night" at the Arizona Science Center, ADWR is focusing on five programs the agency is targeting for youngsters.

"Governor (Janet) Napolitano has made it a big part of our mission to educate schoolchildren on the sources of, uses for and issues surrounding the water supply in this desert state," said ADWR Director Herb Guenther. "We're happy to present this important information to our young citizens who will make Arizona's decisions in the not-too-distant future."

Programs

1. Marjie Risk, ADWR's statewide conservation coordinator, said ADWR is partnering with the Arizona Science Center to develop a series of in-house demonstrations tied to the unique properties of water and how we use them to manage water in this state.

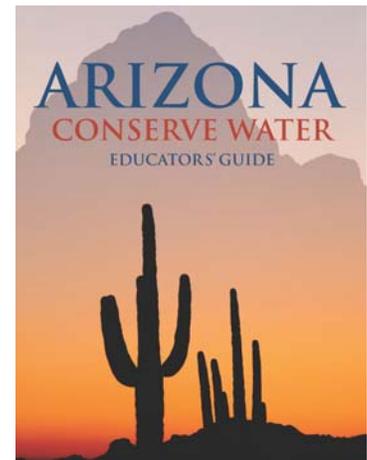
ADWR will join with the center's "Science on Wheels" outreach, and create the "Arizona Water" program that will travel to classrooms around the state. The program is appropriate for:

- Grades Pre-K through 2 (a 60-minute workshop) and
- Grades 3-8 (a 90-minute workshop)

2. The agency is developing "Arizona Conserve Water" a curriculum for grades K-12.

In the Governor's 2005 Town Hall speech, she expressed interest in having Arizona lead the nation in K-12 water conservation education. The ADWR is leading the way by taking "Conserve Water," an existing Project WET national curriculum for Grades 6-12, and tailoring it to the particular conditions in Arizona. Activities will be adapted for lower grades as well.

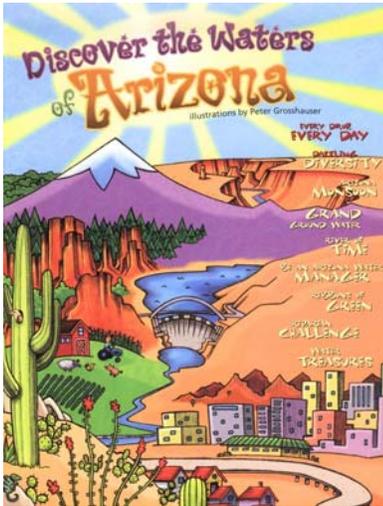
"This is a key part of water education for the schools," Director Guenther said. The curriculum will be available in 2007 and currently is being tested with teachers.



Celebrating 25 Years

3. The agency is creating a “Water Conservation Patch” program to encourage young peoples’ involvement in conservation-related activities. The program is aimed at organized groups and is scaled in difficulty according to age group. Participants who complete the challenges will earn the patch.

This program will get underway during the fall 2006 term.



4. Fourth-grade teachers across Arizona will explore the waters of our state through workshops tied to a color booklet produced in conjunction with ADWR, the Bureau of Reclamation, and Arizona Project WET at the University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center.

The 18-page booklet, “Discover the Waters of Arizona,” focuses on the extensive history and diverse regions of the state, explores the annual summer phenomenon known as “monsoon season,” offers a glimpse of Arizona’s bountiful underground aquifers, and challenges students to become aware of the “other” inhabitants of the state – the fish, birds and animals who depend on the water supply to survive.

Risk said ADWR is scheduling workshops through the end of 2006, based on community interest. Additional information is at the ADWR web site www.azwater.gov and the web site for Arizona Project WET:

www.ag.arizona.edu/AZWATER/wet.

5. ADWR also is expanding its statewide support of the Project WET “Make a Splash” water festivals.

For additional information, contact:

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