



% Minnehaha Conservation District,  
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Please join us at the  
***29th Annual Sioux Empire Water Festival***

The Sioux Empire Water Festival Committee would like to thank all the presenters who participated in the 2021 water festival. Without the help of dedicated professionals such as you, the water festival would not be possible. For those of you who may be joining us again or are new to our water festival, we would like to extend an invitation to join us in 2022.

The 29th Annual Sioux Empire Water Festival will be a **hybrid** event this year, with a combination of live presentations held at the University of Sioux Falls, and recorded presentations viewed in the classrooms virtually. The water festival will be held on **March 8 and 9, 2022**, so please reserve these important dates on your calendar.

We know that there will be some presenters who will not be able to attend a live event. If at all possible, we would LOVE to receive a recorded presentation from you.

**Live Presentation Details:** Each class ranges from 15 to 30 students. They will have a schedule to follow. During their 2.5 hours at the Festival they will attend 3 classroom presentations and visit the Exhibit Hall. Each segment lasts 20 minutes with 15 minutes to get to the next presentation. The morning sessions run from 9:00 - 11:10 am, and the afternoon sessions run from 11:50 am to 2:00 pm. The classroom teacher and chaperones accompany the students. ***It is very important that the classroom presenters adhere to the time schedule.*** If a classroom shows up late to your presentation, their presentation should be shortened so that the time schedule is not interrupted for other groups and presenters. **More information is available at our website at <https://sewf.org>.** Please be mindful of Covid precautions for any hands-on / interactive activities.

**Presenter Details:** Presenters are at the heart of the Water Festival. You bring **water** to life for the students through the personal experience and interaction they have in the classroom. Please indicate whether you can present for one or both days. We would prefer that you stay for a full day. Lunch is provided for the presenters and a lounge area with refreshments (**including water!**) are located in each building for use between presentations. If there is anything we can do to help, please do not hesitate to ask.

Due to Covid-19 and the ripple effects it has been causing such as staffing and transportation shortages, the 2022 Sioux Empire Water Festival will be a hybrid event, meaning we will have a combination of live presentations at the USF Campus

and virtual presentations, to be viewed in classrooms as done last year. We will need to implement the following changes:

- Until we see how Covid logistics are shaping up as we get closer to March, registrations for those classes who wish to attend the live event will be limited to about half the usual, based upon a first come, first served basis. We're hoping we can open that number up more as the time gets closer, once we see how many presenters are able to attend live this year.
- Because the classrooms will need to be sanitized between presentations, we will need to have longer periods between each presentation. This means each presenter will have four presentations per session, rather than five. Time between presentations will be lengthened to 15 minutes. Teachers and volunteers will be asked to help the presenter sanitize the classroom before the students enter. Wipes and sanitizer will be provided to you.

**Recorded Presentations:** If you are unable to present live at the water festival, we hope you will find a way to record your presentation. Your recording should be 20 minutes long, as if you were presenting live. Instructions will be provided to any presenters who would like to make a recording. If you made a recording for us last year, we can re-use it for this year's festival.

**Water Connection:** All presentations must be connected to water. To be effective, your activity should be:

**Hands on/interactive as Covid precautions allow** - Each student should be involved with either a hands-on or thinking activity, if possible, while still maintaining Covid precautions. Students who are involved and use their sense of touch, smell, or taste will remember your message.

**Appropriate for 4th grade students** - Vocabulary and concepts should be kept simple. If you need presentation suggestions, we have many wonderful resources you may review for ideas to enhance your presentation.

**Fun and interesting** - Use your imagination on what would interest the students. Create an activity that uses a number of the senses. We discourage the use of videos or lectures.

**Factual** - Do not provide information that is questionable or exaggerated.

As a committee we are excited about hosting the water festival and look forward to seeing you next March. Please register online by **November 15, 2021** at <https://tinyurl.com/PresenterRegistration2022>.

Due to the weather during the 2020 water fest, the committee has developed a weather policy. **If the Sioux Falls schools are open, the Water Fest WILL be held.** Lodging at a local motel will be made available for any presenters who need it, at no charge to the presenter or their organization. However, we do not expect any of our presenters to take unnecessary risks for the water fest. If you are unable to stay for

the entirety of the water fest due to the weather, we ask that you give us **as much notice as possible**.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or if we can help with your presentation in any way.

Sincerely,

Melanie Raine  
SEWF Scheduling Coordinator