



% Minnehaha Conservation District,
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Please join us at the
30th Annual Sioux Empire Water Festival

The Sioux Empire Water Festival Committee would like to extend to you an invitation to join us in 2023.

The 30th Annual Sioux Empire Water Festival will be a live event again this year (yay!). The water festival will be held on **March 7 and 8, 2023**, so please reserve these important dates on your calendar.

We know that there will be some presenters who may not be able to participate in person this year. If at all possible, we would love to receive a recorded presentation from you, as we will once again make the recorded presentations available to the schools.

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, 2022** at <https://tinyurl.com/PresenterRegistration2023>.

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 4 classroom presentations and visit the Exhibit Hall. Each segment lasts 20 minutes with 10 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. More information is available at our website at <https://sewf.org>.

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 is located in each building for use between presentations. If there is anything we can do to help, please do not hesitate to ask.

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 previous, we will use it again for this year's festival.

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

Hands on/interactive - Each student should be involved with either a hands-on or thinking activity. 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.

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 festival. 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.

Finally, we'd like to send another heartfelt thank you to all the presenters who participated in the 2022 water festival. Without the help of dedicated professionals such as you, the water festival would not be possible. We're grateful for all you do!

Sincerely,

Melanie Raine
SEWF Scheduling Coordinator