

Education & Outreach

Defiance County Environmental Services has partnered with Soil and Water Conservation to develop an Education and Outreach Coordinator position responsible to provide resources and technical assistance, encouraging the protection and preservation of our natural resources. This includes providing free educational materials and programs on topics such as: recycling education, repurposing, water quality, soils, Ohio wildlife, invasive species, environmental concerns and more. Outreach will allow for in-classroom presentations and participation or take the class outside and utilize the Penney Nature Center (Kids' Conservation Camp), Sixth Grade School Tour at Auglaize Village, youth opportunities at the Defiance County Fair, Defiance County Libraries and virtual programs are also available.

The presentations are geared to the age group. Kindergarten, Early 5's and Pre-K presentations create an earth bracelet with colored beads that represent natural resources. The bracelet consists of an elastic string and six different colored beads. Each bead represents something in our environment such as brown for dirt, green for the earth, after the bracelets are made everyone talks about the colors and what they represent. In addition to the bracelet, recycling information and items such as a coloring or activity book and/or a promotional item(s) are handed out to each student and teacher.

Second graders program will focus on vermicomposting as a means to reduce residential food wastes that could be used as compost. Each classroom is provided with a vermicomposting box, including worms! These worm composting boxes will also be utilizing reused, shredded paper for worm bedding with added food items to be processed by the worms. Students will gain a greater understanding of varied materials that can be composted. Each student will receive a recycling activity book and other educational materials.

Fourth grade programs will engage students to help them better understand how long particular trash items might last in a landfill and/or within the environment, to demonstrate the potential consequences of not reducing, reusing, repurposing, and recycling. Students will be provided with a recycling activity book and other educational materials.

Enviroscape Programs conduct natural resource and recycling education programs utilizing a hands-on Enviroscape model. This will demonstrate how storm water runoff carries pollutants and litter throughout the watershed and how to prevent this type of pollution.

Outdoor Classroom Presentations include Fifth Grade Conservation Day and Sixth Grade Auglaize Village Tours. This approach has six concurrent education sessions that students cycle through in the course of a day with an interactive approach to reinforce multiple environmental topics.

The Penney Nature Center is a local resource and utilized by offering conservation camps to a variety of ages of students. Students will build and launch a water/air pressure propelled rocket constructed from sanitized, re-used plastic bottles. This program demonstrates the ability to reuse an ordinary household item for a completely new and innovative use.

Presentations for organizations (Rotary, Kiwanis, Senior Center, Lions Club, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and more), businesses, colleges, are also available. If you would like more information regarding a presentation for an environmental topic, please contact Defiance County Environmental Services office at (419) 782-5442.