



WATERSHED ADVENTURES is a program for 4th grade classes in Alameda County. The program combines science and art to build awareness and understanding of local creeks and watersheds, their unique ecosystems, and ways we can care for them. The program consists primarily of two in-class presentations given one week apart. It is a free program, available November 2009 through May 2010.

Why do students need to learn about watersheds?

Because we all live in a watershed... an area of land that water flows over or through on its way to a common water body such as a creek, lake, bay or ocean. Watersheds need protection because clean water is important for healthy ecosystems that all living things are a part of, including wildlife and people. Students can help make a difference in their watershed.

The Watershed Adventures program includes TWO 75 minute, in-class presentations given one week apart:

**Presentation 1:
WATERSHED EXPLORERS**

Presenters use a wide variety of exciting teaching strategies to involve students in learning about watersheds, the creek nearest their school and specific actions they can take in their neighborhoods to help keep water clean and healthy for people and wildlife.

During the presentation students will:

- View a short film titled "Mr. Ball's Adventures in the Watershed".
- Map their neighborhood creek in their *Watershed Explorers* activity booklet.
- Find sources of pollution and see their effects at a model watershed with a "real" creek.
 - Be "pollution detectives".
 - Enter the T-Shirt Art Contest.

**Presentation 2:
WATERSHED EXPRESSIONS**

Conducted by an artist one week later, this presentation expands on the previous lessons through an art activity in which students:

- Create a watercolor/oil pastel resist painting of a fish in its habitat.
- Use their imagination and knowledge to add special features to the fish that allow it to withstand various pollutants, including oils, chemicals, sediments, trash and pet waste.
- Knowing that fish can't really protect themselves from pollution, students write a pledge to their fish explaining how they will take steps to care for their creeks and watersheds, as well as the San Francisco Bay.
- Students will share their fish and pledge with the class.



**WATERSHED ADVENTURES
EDUCATOR'S GUIDE**

Teachers will receive a copy of the *Educator's Guide* three weeks before their Watershed Explorers presentation. The Guide contains details about the two classroom presentations, additional watershed-related classroom activities, suggestions for "Take Action" watershed stewardship projects and other teacher and student references and resources.

Please contact us to sign up for presentations:

(925) 371-0154 x 412 or

watershedadventures@yahoo.com

The Watershed Adventures program is conducted by the **Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD)**

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