

# Classroom Presentations

To help facilitate and integrate environmental education into classrooms, the NRD offers classroom presentations on a variety of natural resource topics. Fun activities raise environmental awareness and stress the importance of conservation. Presentations are aligned to fit with curriculum and state standards. Below is a sampling of the presentations we offer, contact us to tailor a program to fit your needs.

- Nebraska Mammals (grades 2- 5):  
*Through the use of skulls and pelts, students learn about native mammals, their habitats, and adaptations.*
- Wildlife CSI (grades 4-8):  
*Students visit 5 wildlife "crime scenes" to investigate wildlife "crimes" using observations and critical thinking.*
- Incredible Journey (grades 4-6):  
*Acting as water drops, students learn about the hydrologic cycle as they travel through the water cycle.*
- Groundwater Flow Model (grades 4- 8):  
*A visual model showing groundwater basics including point and non-point pollution.*
- Wetlands in a Bag (grades 2-5):  
*By matching common objects with the wetland function they represent students learn about wetlands.*
- GPS & Geo-caching (grades 5-12):  
*Students learn about GIS and use GPS technology to find hidden caches.*
- Tree Trivia (grade 3):  
*An interactive game which teaches students the importance of trees in our ecosystem and our lives.*
- Don't Lose Ground (grade 6):  
*Students learn about soil erosion and conservation in hands-on demonstrations.*

For best availability please contact McKenzie Barry at least 2 weeks ahead of time at (402) 476-2729 or [mbarry@lpsnrd.org](mailto:mbarry@lpsnrd.org)

# Grants

## High School Environmental Mini-Grants

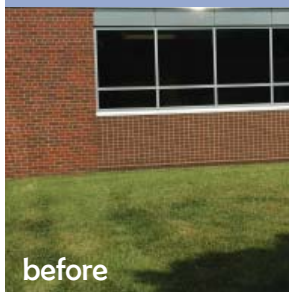
Aimed at high school classrooms, this grant is designed to provide teachers with the supplies and equipment they need to engage their students in learning about natural resources.

## Educator Conference Scholarships

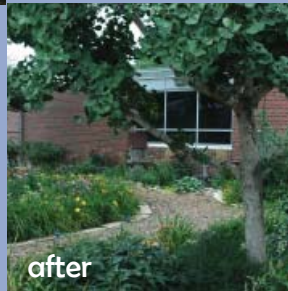
Professional development is critical for educators to learn about the latest concepts and resources. This Scholarship provides District formal and non-formal educators with up to 50% of registration and program costs (excluding transportation).

## Student Conference Scholarships

This grant, like the Educator Conference Scholarship, provides students with up to 50% of registration and program costs (excluding transportation).



before



after

## Outdoor Classroom Grants

This grant is intended to encourage the development of outdoor learning areas that promote conservation and environmental awareness for all ages. The NRD works with the school and the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum to develop a dynamic site based on input from each school.

The grant will fund up to 60% of the project cost, not to exceed \$2,000 per fiscal year. Remaining costs can be covered by in-kind contributions and other funding sources.

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## Contact

## Us

# Lower Platte South NRD Environmental Education



Lower Platte South NRD  
[www.lpsnrd.org](http://www.lpsnrd.org)  
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# Programs

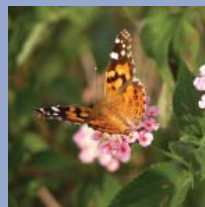


## Worms - 1<sup>st</sup> grade

This program invites 1<sup>st</sup> grade classrooms to learn about soil, decomposition, and living animals through the use of red worms. These worms live in the classroom in a bin and are available for students to observe and explore.

## Butterflies - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

Raising caterpillars in your classroom, allows students the opportunity to learn first-hand about life cycles and metamorphosis as the caterpillars create their chrysalis and finally emerge as butterflies.



## Trees - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

This program helps 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students learn about and appreciate trees. This program provides free tree seedlings for each student as well as a resource and activity guide for the teacher.

## earth wellness festival - 5<sup>th</sup> grade

The NRD is proud to co-sponsor this amazing educational event. This annual festival involves 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from Lancaster County in creative, hands-on activities that increase their awareness of the environment.

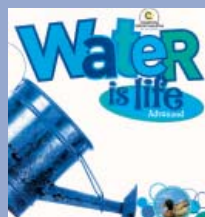


## High School Environmental Studies Field Trips

Today more than ever, it is important that students get out into the natural environment as they learn. This program helps students venture into Nebraska's ecosystems and become actively engaged in their learning.

## Stewardship Week - all grades

The NRD is pleased to offer this annual program. Based on a yearly theme, engaging activity booklets and teacher guides are produced to help teach students about our natural resources.



# Outreach



## Field Trips

Take your students beyond classroom and textbook learning... and on an adventure! Each NRD field trip is designed to fit with curriculum, while allowing students to experience first-hand what they have been learning about in the classroom. The NRD offers four field trip options – Eastern Saline Wetlands, Nebraska Prairies, Water Quality Testing, and Platte River State Park. You bring the students, we will bring the experts and equipment!

## Nature Clubs

The NRD believes that it is vitally important to encourage students to learn about and explore nature, the environment, and natural resources. To help foster this belief, the NRD has implemented Nature Clubs in several District schools. These clubs, which meet after school, offer students time to be actively engaged in hands-on activities while learning about nature. Nature club activities include making bird feeders, dissecting owl pellets, and nature scavenger hunts.



## Family Nature Nights

At schools where the NRD has Nature Clubs in place, the NRD hosts Family Nature Nights. These free evening events are designed for students and their families to experience and connect with nature. Activities include potting plants, making paper, trash art, and live animals! Nature Nights are a great way for a school to engage their families in learning together while increasing their knowledge of Nebraska's natural resources.



## Educator Workshops

Learn about new programs, curriculums, and resources by attending an Educator Workshop with the NRD. By participating in a workshop, educators receive both knowledge and skills needed to help teach about Nebraska's natural resources. Additionally, workshop participants receive numerous resources and take-home materials to get them started with their lessons.



For more information on Field Trips, Nature Clubs, Family Nature Nights, and Educator Workshops, contact McKenzie Barry at (402) 476-2729 or [mbarry@lpsnrd.org](mailto:mbarry@lpsnrd.org).