

## SCHOOLS

Schools in attendance and counties represented:

- Ansley – Custer County
- Axtell – Kearney County
- Burwell – Garfield County
- Cambridge Homeschool – Furnas County
- Cedar Hollow (2 classes) – Hall County
- Centennial (2 classes) – Seward County
- Deshler – Thayer County
- Dodge (3 classes) – Hall County
- Doniphan Trumbull – Hall County
- Elba – Howard County
- Heartland – York County
- Hitchcock – Hitchcock County
- Humphrey St. Francis – Platte County
- Lawrence – Nelson – Nuckolls County
- Nebraska Christian – Merrick County
- New Hope – Hall County
- Newell (3 classes) – Hall County
- Ord (2 classes) – Valley County
- Palmer – Merrick County
- Red Cloud – Webster County
- Riverside – Boone County
- Sandy Creek – Clay County
- Sargent – Custer County
- Seedling Mile – Hall County
- Shell Creek (3 classes) – Platte County
- Shoemaker (3 classes) – Hall County
- St. Anthony – Platte County
- St. Edward – Boone County
- St. Paul (2 classes) – Howard County
- St. Vincent – Seward County
- Trinity Lutheran – Hall County
- Wheeler Central – Wheeler County

## NEBRASKA REPRESENTED!

47 teachers from 32 schools across 18 counties are in attendance today.

## FESTIVAL COORDINATORS

### Central Platte NRD Staff

Marcia Lee, Information/Education Specialist  
Brody Vorderstrasse, Communications Assistant

### Campus Coordinators

Central Community College:  
Karen Cox, Rob Briseno, Dave Stewart  
Central Community College:  
L.J. McCormick Jr.

## THANK YOU!



The Groundwater Festival is made possible through the generous support of our sponsors. We extend special appreciation to Central Community College and College Park for providing their facilities at no cost. Their partnership reflects the strong community commitment to advancing groundwater education. If you see these sponsors, please join us in thanking them!

### Main Sponsor (\$10,000)

Central Platte Natural Resources District

### Awesome Aquifer Adventurer (\$1,000 - \$5,000)

Fred and Gloria Otradovsky  
Hunter Industries/Senninger

### Legendary Lake League (\$400 - \$999)

Lower Loup Natural Resources District  
Nebraskaland Distributors LLC

### Babbling Brook Benefactor (\$250 - \$399)

CNH Industrial Foundation  
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JEO Consulting Group Inc  
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### Supreme Springwater Supporter (\$100 - \$249)

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Roger & Julie Frandsen  
Super Saver – Five Points  
Walmart South  
Wanitschke Family  
Wish Nebraska, Inc.

### Festival Friend (\$25 - \$99)

Lee's Family Restaurant  
Middle Niobrara Natural Resources District  
Super Saver – Grand Island Second Street

*The Nebraska Children's Groundwater Festival is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, with funds managed by the Greater Grand Island Community Foundation (Tax ID: 47-6032570). Thank you for supporting our mission to educate children about the importance of groundwater and environmental stewardship.*

## Nebraska Children's Groundwater Festival



**Educating youth on the importance  
of our most precious resource...  
GROUNDWATER**

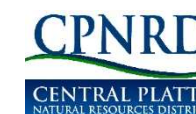
**Tuesday, May 13, 2025  
Central Community College and College Park  
Grand Island, Nebraska**

## **WELCOME TO THE 37<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NEBRASKA CHILDREN'S GROUNDWATER FESTIVAL!**

*Since 1988, the Nebraska Children's Groundwater Festival has connected over 32,000 students with water and natural resource professionals to explore the importance of groundwater conservation.*

*Each year, up to 900 students learn directly from experts through hands-on classroom activities and an engaging stage show. This one-day event offers a powerful educational experience made possible by professionals who bring real-world knowledge to the classroom.*

*Thanks to generous sponsors, schools attend at no cost, and all participants receive a free lunch. Dedicated volunteers play a vital role in making the event a success. The festival's impact has inspired similar events in 42 states and four countries, establishing it as a national and international model for environmental education.*



**Central Platte Natural Resources District  
(308) 385-6282 | [www.cpnrd.org/education](http://www.cpnrd.org/education)**

# 2025 ACTIVITIES

Students are scheduled to attend six classroom activities, a stage show & lunch. Each session is 25 minutes. Activities are held in three campus buildings and outdoors.

## CCC = Central Community College

**Aquifers and You! How We Impact Water Quality (CCC 310)** *Nebraska Department of Environment & Energy* Build your own topographic terrarium to learn how different land formations impact rainfall, water tables & surface pollution.

**Critter Cube Count (CCC 522)** *Grand Island Izaak Walton League* Role dice to ID macroinvertebrates/use math to calculate the health of a stream and how it affects groundwater.

**Demo: Urban Stormwater Pollution (CCC 212)** *City of Grand Island and City of Kearney Stormwater* Students will see how easy behaviors/practices can make a big impact on our environment to reduce pollution.

**Dividing the Drops (CCC 554)** *Nebraska Department of Natural Resources* Students will represent all water users in Nebraska and divide needed water uses.

**Groundwater: It's in What You Drink (CCC 101)** *Ensign Beverage, Hastings* We'll brainstorm about what beverages are made with groundwater, including those made right here in Nebraska.

**Exploring Nebraska's Wetlands (CCC 210)** *Stuhr Museum* Students will handle wetland plants from Stuhr Museum's wetlands and design their own wetland.

**NRCS Awesome Aquifer (CCC 405)** *NRCS - Natural Resources Conservation Service* Learn about the location, size, and function of the High Plains Aquifer by constructing your own model.

**Our World: Soil & Water (CCC 102)** *Nebraska Farm Bureau* Create a fractional model of Earth's water and land resources and best practices that farmers use to protect these resources.

**Rock & Roll: Geology and My Water (CCC 261)** *Central Platte NRD* Drill a core sample and learn how historical geological events affect the water available to us.

**Soil and the Water Cycle (CCC 211)** *USDA NRCS* Students will see how water and soil interact with a tabletop rainfall simulation, and then get their hands dirty making their own soil profile cards as they learn about soil!

**Test the Waters: A Quality Check (CCC 262)** *Central Platte NRD* Learn how to use lab equipment to test water samples for nitrate and turbidity.

**The Incredible Journey (CCC 456)** *EA Engineering, Science & Technology* Learn how water moves through the water cycle by rolling dice to create a bracelet with properties of water in soil, plants, surface water and groundwater.

**The Raptor Connection (CCC 355 Cafeteria)** *Raptor Conservation Alliance* See live raptors and learn why all wildlife depends on groundwater for survival.

**There's No New Water (CCC 457)** *Nebraska Extension* Discover how many people rely on groundwater and why it's crucial to conserve this vital resource.

**Travel the Water Cycle (CCC 552)** *UNL Extension Hall County 4-H* Learn the parts of the water cycle - from evaporation to precipitation with an interactive vocabulary-matching game.

## CCC = Central Community College (continued)

**USGS Awesome Aquifers (Outside CCC Entrance)** *U.S. Geological Survey* Learn how surface and groundwater interact and how external factors, i.e. pumping and contamination affect them.

**Wastewater Jeopardy (CCC 524)** *Nebraska Water Environment Association* Form teams to play an interactive water version of the game show Jeopardy with questions about water and wastewater.

**Water Cycle Bingo (CCC 525)** *Grand Island Clean Community System* Have fun learning and memorizing how the water cycle works.

**Water Explorers: Journey Through Soils (CCC 555)** *CCC Environmental Sustainability Office* Learn how water moves through soils and build a filter to clean the 'dirty' water.

**We All Live in a Watershed (CCC 566)** *Lower Loup NRD* Scenario: You have \$5 million to build/develop riverside land however you want. Learn how everyone affects the watershed they live in.

**Wetland Wildlife Resource Discovery (CCC 103)** *Crane Trust* Learn how wetlands support wildlife & migratory species through an interactive resource game.

## CHTS = Center for Health & Technical Science

**GIS/GPS: Mapping Groundwater (CHTS 965)** *Central Platte NRD* Use GPS units to see how NRDs calculate groundwater levels from year-to-year to manage water resources.

**H2O Olympics (CHTS 929)** *Little Blue NRD* Compete in the Water Olympics by performing tasks that investigate properties of water: adhesion and cohesion.

**Preserving Grasslands/Fire Equipment (CHTS Outside @ Field Near Tent)** *Central Platte NRD* Learn the challenges facing Nebraska's grasslands and habitat. See equipment used for wildfire and prescribed burning.

**The Compost Connection (CHTS Outside @ Field Near Tent)** *Smart Soil* Students handle compost and learn how it helps with soil structure, better water retention, and runoff control.

**Water Travel Scavenger Hunt (CHTS Outside)** *Prairie Loft Center* Discover the path rain takes after it falls from the clouds.

**Windmills and Water in the 1800s (CHTS 959)** *Nebraska State Historical Society* Learn how homesteaders and farmers used windmills to pull up water & make your own windmill to take home.

## CP = College Park

**Awesome Aquifer (CP 103/104)** *NRDs - Lewis & Clark/Lower Niobrara* Build an aquifer to learn how water withdrawal and pollution affect aquifers.

**Building Floodplain Town (CP 207/208)** *Nebraska Department of Natural Resources* Construct a paper house for an interactive floodplain table to learn the benefits of surface water and groundwater interaction.

**Fax Gilbert Interactive Performance (CP Auditorium)** *Fax Gilbert* Enjoy characters and skits for a deeper understanding of aquifers, the water cycle, groundwater and contaminants.

**Green/Gray Relay (CP Ext. Room 2)** *Nebraska Extension* What is the difference between green and gray infrastructure? Students participate in a green vs gray infrastructure relay to see.

**Hidden Household Hazards (CP 105/106)** *Meridian Enrichment Program* Use safe, effective, alternative cleaning solutions that will not harm the groundwater.

**Infiltration Station (CP Outside)** *JEO Consulting Group* Shoot water guns at targets to simulate rainfall. Compare runoff and infiltration based on the target's soil/surface type.

**Renewable Grid Simulator with VR Headsets (CP 201/202)** *NPPD - Nebraska Public Power District* Discuss how vital water is to process electricity, how chemists keep it clean, and the connection with invasive species.

**The Incredible Journey (CP Ext. Room 1)** *Hastings Museum* Become a water molecule and move through the water cycle by collecting beads along your journey to make a bracelet.

**Water Rockets (CP 203/204)** *Grand Island Groundwater Guardian Team* Use water and compressed air to build a water rocket and learn about Grand Island's water system. Then launch your rocket!

**Watershed Whirlwind (CP Multipurpose Room)** *Lower Platte South NRD* Line up to create a watershed. Demonstrate how seasonal precipitation impacts not only the watershed but also groundwater.

**Well, Well: How Deep Does It Go? (CP North Parking Lot)** *Shane's Pump & Windmill Service* See firsthand how to measure water depth and well depth from College Park's irrigation well.

**Wetlands Bingo (CP 209/210)** *Upper Big Blue NRD* Watch a wetlands music video, discuss how wetlands filter groundwater, and play Wetland Bingo.

### Special Thank You to our Presenters, Volunteers and NRD Staff!

A heartfelt thank you for participating in the 2025 Nebraska Children's Groundwater Festival! We sincerely appreciate your generous contribution of time, talent, and expertise. Your dedication made a lasting impact on the students—and helped make this year's event a success.