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## Educational Offerings



Shelby Soil & Water Conservation District

*Offering free educational programs to any school or group located in Shelby County.*



## Shelby Soil & Water Conservation District

### *Our Mission*

Providing Leadership, Education, and Technical Assistance In Natural Resource Conservation to The Citizens of Shelby County.

### *Our History*

The Shelby Soil and Water Conservation District was formed in 1946 by a group of private landowners who were interested in conserving our natural resources. These early conservationists started the district and formed the first board of supervisors.

### *Services*

Shelby SWCD provides both technical assistance and conservation education. Some of the many conservation practices that we assist with are grassed waterways, manure storage structures, livestock mortality composters, wetlands, conservation plantings and much more. Shelby SWCD considers our education program to be preventative medicine for the environment.



## Educational Offerings

- Hands-on presentations
- Conservation Activities
- Conservation Lending Library—borrow great resources
  - Videos
  - Activity Guides
  - Children's Books
  - Reference Books
  - Equipment

### AVAILABLE PRESENTATIONS

Programs are available on a wide range of topics and can be tailored to fit your needs. The following list is just a snapshot of what can be done! Contact Amanda if you have a specific presentation or topic in mind!

#### Soil

- What's Under my Feet? Trace several items to the soil origin. Hands-on investigation of soil ingredients.
- Soil: We Can't Grow Without It Determine our connections to soil. Demonstrate effects of erosion and conservation.
- Soil Horizons Investigate soil layers, composition, and texture to determine land use limitations.

#### Agriculture

- Agriculture Discover how food gets to your table and about conservation farming practices.

#### Plants

- SEEDS Importance of seeds, seed parts, how they grow, seed art, etc.
- Plant a Tree Coordinate an event in the Spring so each student can plant a tree.

#### Water

- Water, Water Everywhere Demonstration of how much water is on Earth, different properties of water and water conservation.
- Watersheds and Flows Hands on model demonstration of land use and pollution potential in a watershed (EnviroScape).

### Wildlife/Ecosystems/Habitat

- Animal Tracks Learn about different animal tracks. Each participant can take home an animal track. View a variety of animal skins, shells, bones, etc. Perfect winter activity when tracks are easy to note in snow.
- Fill the Bill What a bird's beak looks like will tell you a lot about what the bird eats. Go outside to make bird observations.

### Recycling/Composting

- How to recycle and why it is important.

### CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

- Envirothon: Academic team competition for high school student in five areas—soils, wildlife, forestry, aquatics, and current issues.
- Storm Drain Tagging: Marking storm drains so residents note that anything dumped goes straight to the river.
- Poster Contest: Project based learning through poster design and researching the theme, can give your students a voice in your community on important conservation issues.
- Learning Field Trips: coordinate a field trip to wetland, water treatment plant, or to waterway to do stream quality monitoring.

