

30th Waterloo Wellington Children's Groundwater Festival



May 22 – May 28, 2026
VOLUNTEERS' EVENT GUIDE



Waterloo Wellington Children's Groundwater Festival

2026 Waterloo Wellington Children's Groundwater Festival

Volunteers' Manual Introduction

Thank you for creating a fun and safe environment for student to learn!

Since 1916, the Waterloo Wellington Children's Groundwater Festival (WWCGF) has inspired students in Waterloo Region, Wellington County and the City of Guelph to understand the value of water and groundwater, and to develop a sense of environmental stewardship.

The Teacher's Event Guide has been compiled to help teachers and students prepare for the Festival.

The WWCGF brings together educators, groundwater professionals, and representatives from industry and government to deliver a hands-on, interactive learning experience. With approximately 50 activity centres, the Festival engages students in Grades 2–5 through fun, age-appropriate curriculum connected activities that explore the science, use, and protection of water.

Core learning themes include water conservation, groundwater protection, the water cycle, the relationship between water and technology, and respect for the natural environment.

Students will have the opportunity to learn about:

- the physical science of water and groundwater
- groundwater as a resource: management and utilization in rural and urban settings
- the water cycle
- the interdependence of people, plants, animals, soil, air and water
- the results of the interaction between people and water, and what effects it has on the environment
- the role of water in historic and contemporary processes and technology.

We hope you enjoy the festival and we look forward to receiving your evaluations.

All Festival Information posted at: www.wwcgf.ca



Waterloo Wellington Children's Groundwater Festival

Preparing for your Visit

Planning plays an important part in the success of your visit, the use of the following check list:

- REVIEW the Health and Safety Protocol, it will be sent to your email prior to your visit.
- [Register and sign the waiver](#) and volunteer form before attending (if you haven't done so)
- NO UNAUTHORIZED CAR PARKING ON-SITE. Note: Please contact WWCGF coordinator for any special needs concerns, or to arrange for a Parking Pass. Print and bring your parking pass the day of the event.
- Familiarize yourself with the activity centre you will be leading or your role
- Stay vigilant and aware of your surroundings at all times
- There will be copies of the Visit Scheduler, Activity Centre List and the Site Map at the Information Booths, feel free to direct volunteers or teachers that way
- Familiarize yourself with the site map.
- All stations are to remain open from 9:30am until 1:35pm. Please help us tidy up your station when you are done.
- Please note that there will not be a predetermined lunch period for participants. Each group is responsible for organizing their own lunch time at the designated lunch areas. Lunch will be delivered to volunteers between 11am and 12:30pm. You will not be able to purchase food on site.



Waterloo Wellington Children's Groundwater Festival

On Your Volunteer Day

1. Upon arrival at Marden Park, please park at the volunteer designated area, follow the signs to the festival and register at the Volunteer booth.
2. You will receive training upon arrival to the festival and will be directed to your station.
3. Festival staff and volunteers will be located in many areas throughout the site. Should questions arise, feel free to ask staff members wearing a safety vest. They will be happy to assist you.
4. **Emergencies:** there will be first aid trained volunteers on site, please identify the First Aid station as soon as you arrive. Follow emergency procedures stated on the Health and Safety Protocol
5. **Severe Weather:** all participants will make their way to a safe sheltered location during any severe weather, such as lightning and thunder. All activity centres will be closed during this time. As per Environment Canada advice – activities will re-open half hour after last thunder/ lightning sighting. If extreme weather persists, buses will pick you and your class up and return you to your school.
6. Please help us to improve our service to you by completing the evaluation form that will be sent to your email address after the festival.

Festival's Activity Centres

Area A	Area B
Do the Limbo	Low Salt Diet
Eagle Survivor	3X a Day
Just Add Rian	Royal Flush
River Safety	Watermain Break
Wet 'N Wild	Lather-Up
Only Rain Down the Drain	3D Sandbox
Stormwater Management Display	Amazing Aquifer
Watershed Model	Frosty Minerals
All the Water in the World	Microplastics
Power of Water	Motion of the Ocean
Smart Sippers	Greenhouse Gases
Is Your Water Well	Quack Attack
A Day at the Beach	Water Cycle
Aquatic Invertebrates	What's Under Your Feet
Rainy Day in the Urban Forest	Pumping Station Demo
Water Brain Challenge	
Geotech/Environmental Drilling	

Area C	Area D
Settler Water Race	Capture the Carbon
Watering Hole	Garbage Juice
From Source to Tap	Historical Laundry
From Tap Back to Source	Infiltration Investigation
3Ps: Pee, Poo, Paper	Septic Smart
Turtle Hurdle	Drops Decide
Water in our Food	Water for Breakfast
We all Live Downstream	Eco Hydro (Chlorophyl)
Porosity and Permeability	Great Lakes
Up on the Watershed	Wetlands
Water Cycles Expeditions	Surface Water Treatment
Water Ours to Protect	Human Water Cycle
	Homer Watson Inspired Landscape Drawing

Activity centre manuals can be found [here](#).

Additional Water Resources on the Internet

If you want to learn more about water, groundwater and education, here are a few links to help you expand your knowledge.

American Water Works Assoc.	www.awwa.org
Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corp.	www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca (search: sustainability)
Canadian Water Resource Assoc.	www.cwra.org
Drinking water and groundwater-kids stuff	www.epa.gov/kids
Environment Canada	http://www.ec.gc.ca/
Environmental Education Network	http://eeecom.org/
Grand River Conservation Authority	www.grandriver.ca
Ontario's Great Lakes Strategy	https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontarios-greatlakes-strategy
National Science Foundation	www.nsf.gov
Ontario Groundwater Association	www.ogwa.ca
Ontario Power Generation	www.opg.com
Ontario Water Works Assoc.	www.owwa.ca
REEP – Waterloo Region	www.reepwaterlooregion.ca
Region of Waterloo - Water Services	www.regionofwaterloo.ca (search: Water)
Water Can Program	www.watercan.com
Water for People	www.waterforpeople.org
Water Partners International	http://water.org
US Geological Survey	https://www.usgs.gov
EPA Environmental Protection Agency (US)	http://www.epa.gov/gateway/learn/water.html
Canadian Geography	http://energyiq.canadiangeographic.ca/main/floor_map
Biodiversity Education and Awareness Network	www.biodiversityeducation.ca

Kids Sites

Climate Change	www.epa.gov/climatechange/kids/index.html
Water Sense	http://www.epa.gov/watersense/kids/
What's so great about the Great Lakes?	https://youtu.be/gBRcOLcEwF0
PBS Kids Nature Games	https://pbskids.org/games/nature/