



Middle School Junior Water Warriors Program

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Objective: The City of Memphis Stormwater Department invites middle schoolers to participate in the Junior Water Warriors Program. Junior Water Warriors has been created to provide students with hands-on learning in relation to the topics of environmental issues and storm water pollution awareness/prevention. The students will have the opportunity to create a trifold, diorama, or collage from their Junior Water Warriors activity. The students would relate the activity to surface water pollution with the help of teachers and the Program Coordinator. The City of Memphis Stormwater Department will select some of the completed projects to display at one of the two annual Public Meetings. After the public meeting, projects will be returned to the students and/or the school. Pictures of the projects could be published on MemphisStormwater.com and related social media accounts. Only 2-3 middle schools will be selected for the program each semester (January to May, August to December) on a first-come first-serve basis for this Program.

Final Projects/Materials: Teachers will select the type of final project to be completed by the students. Some materials, such as trifolds, poster boards, notebooks, trash bags, placards, pencils/pens, and printed photographs documenting the activity, may be provided by the Stormwater Department and will be clearly communicated to the teacher in writing before the activity is agreed to. Remaining materials must be supplied by students, parents, or the school. Participants will receive a reusable water bottle and/or flash-drive for their participation in Junior Water Warriors Program.

Activities: Activities will be selected and guided by the Program Coordinator based on where the students are in their lessons and what is available in and around their school yard. Some examples of activities are as follows:

Explorer: Students will visualize themselves as tiny insect-sized explorers and explore a small section of an outside school yard space as if they were hiking. They will take pictures and write notes and questions in their note book about what they encounter in their plot, exercising their creativity and critical thinking skills as they learn to see things from a new perspective. The students will pick up any trash found in their plot and explain how it can be harmful to the nearest creek or river.

Topography/Hydrology Activity: Students will map the school yard and observe potential paths of storm water runoff from the school yard. The students will then find any and all storm water inlets on site and mark the inlets with placards. The students will pick up trash they find on the school property. The students will relate how the trash can be carried into the storm water inlets during rain events and how this can pollute the nearest river or creek from their school.

Naturalist: The students will explore their school yard, actively listening and looking for all life forms in their area. The students will note all findings in their journal. The students will pick up all trash found in the areas explored. The students will relate how the trash can contribute to pollution to the nearest creek or river and how it could also affect the animals living in the area.