



News Release

Contacts:

LESA: Hayden Mathews 540-338-8426 (Day)

LWW: David Ward 703-737-8670 (Day)

For Immediate Release

Learn How Streams Connect and Sustain Us at the 13th Annual Family Stream Day

Join us for the 13th annual Family Stream Day event on Saturday, October 18th, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Lyndora Park in Ashburn (43624 Lucketts Bridge Cir, Ashburn, VA, 20148). Family Stream Day's engaging, hands-on outdoor environmental education activities introduce students and their parents to our Loudoun County streams and the plants and animals that these streams and streamside habitats support. Co-sponsored by the Loudoun Watershed Watch (LWW) and the Loudoun Environmental Stewardship Alliance (LESA), Family Stream Day is held in October to pay local tribute to World Water Monitoring Day and the Anniversary of the Clean Water Act. It is the only event of its kind in Loudoun.

During this free event, students and families will enjoy interactive, hands-on activities that teach about our local watersheds, the plants and animals that live in these rich habitats, ways to test stream water quality, how we benefit from and impact our streams, and more. Kids will receive a reusable tote bag and a Family Stream Day "Passport" to have stamped at each station as they participate in the activities. The stations, led by several local organizations, will be located outside at Lyndora Park next to the soccer fields weather permitting or under cover at the nearby Community Center in the event of inclement weather. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable walking shoes and to bring water and snacks since there will not be on-site access to food or beverages.

The top three winners of the annual Family Stream Day Poster, Poem, and Photography Contest will be announced at the event and awarded prizes donated by the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District and the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy. The theme of this year's contest, which is open to students throughout Loudoun County, is '*Where the Wild Things Are: Life In, On and Near Streams in Loudoun County.*' [Contest rules](#) may be downloaded from the Loudoun Watershed Watch website.

www.loudounwatershedwatch.org.

###

Background Information

About Family Stream Day

This annual event tips our local hat to [World Water Monitoring Day](#) (September 18) and commemorates 42 years of the Clean Water Act and watershed awareness. It is being planned and organized by several County organizations including: Loudoun Watershed Watch, Loudoun Environmental Stewardship Alliance, Loudoun County Department of General Services, Loudoun Water, Loudoun County Department of Building & Development, Piedmont Environmental Council, Audubon Naturalist Society, Loudoun County Master Gardeners, Claude Moore Park, and many more.

About Loudoun Watershed Watch

Formed in 2000, Loudoun Watershed Watch's (LWW) primary goal is to monitor and protect water resources in Loudoun County by raising local students' and others' awareness of Loudoun's water resources and engage them in meaningful, hands-on water science activities. LWW has been working in three areas: compiling and examining existing water quality data; designing a comprehensive surface water monitoring program covering all significant streams in the county; and implementing a public outreach program to raise citizen awareness and involvement in local water quality. LWW hopes its reports and initiatives will encourage citizens and elected officials to take actions that support environmental stewardship that benefits our local waters. For more information, or to find out how you can get involved with Loudoun Watershed Watch, go to www.loudounwatershedwatch.org.

About the Loudoun Environmental Stewardship Alliance

The Loudoun Environmental Stewardship Alliance (LESA) was formed in 2007 as a voluntary coalition of individuals from Loudoun non-profits, schools, governments and corporations who shared a desire to promote environmental awareness and learning through resource sharing, environmental education, and offering meaningful outdoor experiences and stewardship projects in Loudoun. LESA is a neutral and objective source of information related to environmental opportunities in Loudoun County and enthusiastically supports the 'No Child/No Family Left Inside' initiatives started by noted author and outdoor educator, Richard Louv. LESA members provide programs, sites, and learning resources for county students, teachers, parents and the public that encourage exploration and appreciation of the natural wonders that lie within Loudoun County and adjacent areas. For more information, or to find out how you can get involved with the Loudoun Environmental Stewardship Alliance, go to www.loudounnature.org.