

2010 SOUTHERN MAINE CHILDREN'S WATER FESTIVAL

University of Southern Maine, Portland Campus

May 21, 2010

December 2009

Dear Educator:

Please join us at USM's Portland Campus on Friday **May 21, 2010** at the fourteenth annual **SOUTHERN MAINE CHILDREN'S WATER FESTIVAL!** This exciting event is geared for 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students and their teachers. The Festival features presentations, exhibits, quiz and stage shows; all focused on water. Students will engage in hands-on activities about topics such as wetland habitats, lakes, wildlife, groundwater, and aquatic life. Free materials will be available in a teacher resource room. The Water Festival is active, fun, and educational!

This year's Festival theme is **"Clean Water: It's All About ME!"**

There is no charge to send students to the Festival!

The Festival's principal objectives are:

- To demonstrate water's properties, value, and protection methods,
- To provide student and teacher interaction with resource professionals,
- To provide teachers with resource materials and classroom activities,
- To develop career interest in environmental protection and education.

Schools in York, Cumberland, Androscoggin, Sagadahoc, Lincoln, Kennebec, Franklin, and Oxford counties are eligible to apply.

Time and space constraints limit the number of participants to approximately 700 students and their teachers. Consequently, attendance at this Festival is not guaranteed but determined on a competitive basis. Teachers must apply and are expected to conduct classroom activities about water prior to the Festival to familiarize their students with fundamental vocabulary and concepts. The organizing committee will provide some materials and guidance for these activities.

To apply, please fill out the two-page application found on the website. Schools will be selected on the basis of how they have integrated or plan to integrate water topics into their curricula, whether they have attended past festivals, and on their geographical location. The selection committee especially values the essay section. Applications must be received by January 22, 2010. Accepted schools will be notified by February 28, 2010. **Small grants are available to help defray the cost of bus transportation.**

Remember, your application materials must be received by **January 22, 2010**. Send to:

**Southern Maine Children's Water Festival
c/o Camilla Fecteau
Portland Water District
1 White Rock Road
Standish, Maine 04084**

Questions? Call Camilla at (207) 774-5961, ext. 3319; or e-mail cfecteau@pwd.org. Check the Maine DEP website for info about past festivals: <http://www.maine.gov/dep//blwq/docteacher/cwf/>.

2010 Festival Planning Committee:

AmeriCorps
Casco Bay Estuary Partnership
Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District
DHHS Health Engineering, Drinking Water Program
Friends of the Cobscook Bay Watershed
Maine Audubon
Maine Department of Environmental Protection

Maine Forest Service
Maine Rural Water Association
Portland Water District
Poland Spring
Univ. of Southern Maine, Geosciences, Environmental Science & Policy
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Chairpersons: Marianne DuBois, MDEP, 207-287-2115 and Wendy Garland, MDEP, 207-822-6320

The Southern Maine Children's Water Festival Committee is the proud recipient of:

