



All About Water: 20th Annual Children's Water Festival

Wednesday, May 11

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Media: Event coverage is welcome, but please do not publish the event location in advance. Thank you.

At least 1,500 fourth-grade students from Dayton Public Schools and the Dayton region are expected to join in fun and learning at the 20th Annual [Dayton Children's Water Festival](#) on Wednesday, May 11, beginning at 10 a.m.

The festival, held on the University of Dayton campus, includes interactive sessions on topics such as the importance of water, recycling and conservation, and the roles of groundwater, stormwater, wastewater and surface water.

Participating students will take part in experiments and projects and enjoy entertainment, all designed to help them become responsible stewards of water and the environment.

Twenty years ago, local organizers realized the potential in Dayton's water resources and the importance of teaching our children how to care for these resources for generations to come. In 1997, the Dayton Children's Water Festival was launched and was the fifth event of its kind in the country and the first in Ohio.

"Every community needs access to clean, safe and reliable water resources. There is a clear link between strategic water resource management and the quality of life of our citizens," said Tammi Clements, Deputy City Manager. "Over the past 20 years, the

Dayton Children's Water Festival has collaborated with local water leaders to educate over 37,000 students on the importance of preserving our water resources and by extension is creating the next generation of environmental stewards for the region."



Throughout its twenty years, the festival has been a model of regional government and private sector cooperation. This year the City of Dayton, Montgomery County Environmental Services, City of Kettering, Greene County Sanitary Engineering, and Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County partnered with Cargill and other local organizations and businesses to present the festival. From providing funding and supplies to the all-volunteer staff, the collective focus is to provide local fourth grade students with a unique and memorable learning experience.

"We want all the festival's activities to challenge the students' minds," said Felicia Graham of the Dayton Department of Water. "We want to teach sound environmental values and provide knowledge that can be applied to students' everyday lives."

Dayton is "where the rivers meet," at the confluence of four waterways -- the Great Miami River, Stillwater River, Mad River and Wolf Creek. The region also sits on a 1.5-trillion-gallon aquifer that supplies clean and plentiful drinking water.

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