

OXFORD
CHILDREN'S
WATER FESTIVAL

2025

Teacher's Planning Guide



Thames Valley
District School Board



**LONDON DISTRICT
Catholic School
BOARD**



Welcome!

Thank you for participating in the Oxford Children's Water Festival

This planning guide helps teachers and students prepare for the Festival and aids teachers in developing this theme further in the classroom.

The Festival features 46 activity stations based around five themes: water conservation, water protection, water attitude, water science and water technology.

All activities:

- Connect to the curriculum in ways that help students to achieve the desired expectations (Health & Physical Education, Mathematics, Science & Technology, Social Studies);
- Are designed to be hands-on and experiential in order to enhance and personalize the learning;
- Provide for holistic learning in an environment that demonstrates the integration of people, phenomena and ideas;
- Are geared to the interests, abilities, and special needs of learners; and,
- Reflect the beliefs that guide education – accountability, quality, equity, partnerships, and a safe environment

Please check out our website at www.childrenswaterfestival.ca for more information including activity station descriptions and curriculum links.

Please like us on facebook!

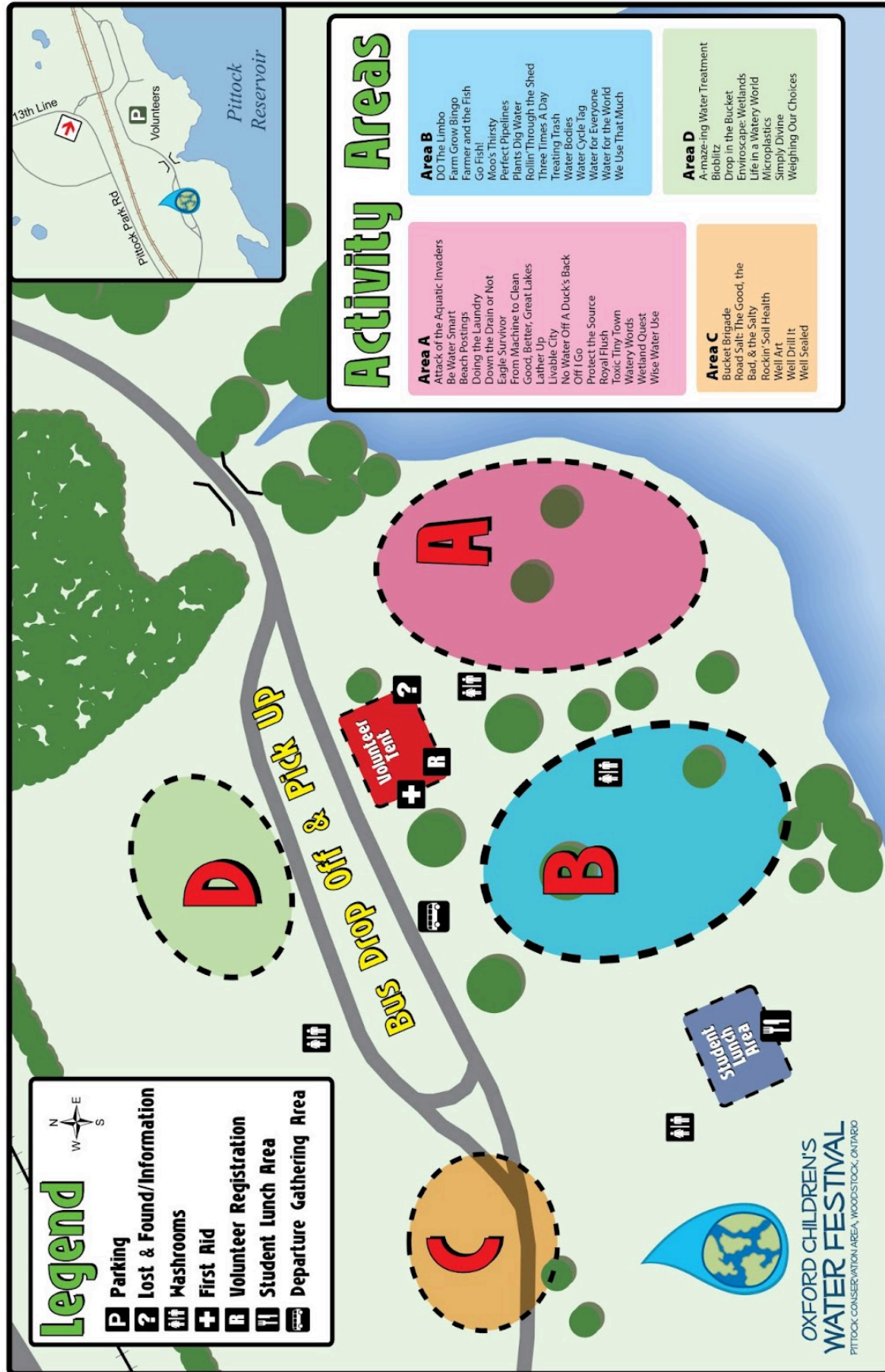
We hope you enjoy the festival and we look forward to receiving your evaluations.

Thank you for participating!



*The Oxford Children's Water Festival
Organizing Committee*

Festival Site Map



Preparing for your Day



- Divide students into groups of 6 students. Ensure you have one adult supervisor per group.
- Make copies of the Site Map/Festival Scheduler – one for each adult supervisor.
- Select activities that best suit your group's interests, as a guideline (not to be followed exactly). Descriptions of the activity stations with curriculum links are online at www.childrenswaterfestival.ca
- Have students pack litter-less, nut-free lunches, which they will carry with them throughout the day. Students should bring filled water bottles.
- Teachers and adult supervisors are responsible for notifying the Festival Coordinator and photographers if they have a student(s) who cannot be photographed. Please draw a raindrop on the name tag of all students that cannot be photographed.
- The Festival will be held rain or shine! Please come prepared with appropriate clothing, footwear and sunscreen if necessary.
- Ensure you review the bus confirmation and find out if your bus is leaving the school later than 9:10 am and /or leaving the Festival earlier than 1:30 pm

What to Bring on the Day of Your Visit

- **Appropriate Clothing** for the weather
- **Lunch and a Water Bottle**
- **Name Tags** for each student, teacher and adult supervisor (with rain drops drawn on those who cannot be photographed).
- **A Class List**
- **Site Maps/Scheduler** for each supervisor

On the Day of your Visit

- *Your bus will pick students up at 9:10 am (unless your school has a later pickup - please see confirmation form)
- Upon arrival, a greeter will board your bus, outline information about the day and direct the bus to the drop off area
- Advise adult supervisors that they are responsible for the behaviour of their group during their visit. Students must be accompanied by an adult at all times.
- Lunch is from 11:30 am to 12:00 pm. All activities are closed during lunch. Please encourage students to eat their lunch during the scheduled lunch time and not earlier as stations will close during the lunch time.
- Volunteers are wearing green shirts, blue aprons or safety vest
- First Aid and Lost & Found are located in the Volunteer Tent
- At 1:20 pm the Festival ends and all activities close. Promptly meet at your school sign in the bus departure area. Volunteers will lead you to your bus when all the students from your school are together at your school sign. Please do not go to your bus on your own.
- *Some schools need to leave the Festival as early as 12:45 – ensure your adult supervisors know what time to meet in the bus departure area

Festival Itinerary

Time	Action	Things to Remember
9:10 am	Buses arrive at schools to pick up classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be ready rain or shine! • Organize students in their groups • Some adult supervisors may need to drive – there is lots of parking on site
9:30 - 11:30 am	Activity Stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult supervisors are responsible for the conduct of students in their groups at all times • Visit stations in random order
11:30 am – 12:00 pm	Lunch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities will be closed during lunch • Please eat in the designated lunch area
12:00 - 1:20 pm	Activity Stations Resume	
1:20 - 1:30*	Departure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move promptly to the departure area and find your school sign - do not go directly to the bus



Cancellation Policies and Basic Safety Rules

- Please ensure children stay in their groups and are accompanied by an adult at all times (including washroom breaks and lunch).
- Teachers/adult supervisors are to be aware of any medical conditions and/or allergies within their group.
- First Aid is available in the Volunteer Tent (refer to site map, page 3). The entire group and the adult supervisor must go together to the station.
- In the event of a serious health or accident emergency, contact the nearest Festival volunteer who will ensure 911 is called. The on-site First Aider will be deployed immediately.
- If a child becomes separated from his or her group, he/she will be accompanied to the Volunteer Tent (refer to site map, page 3). A Safety Committee Member will ensure that the child is reunited with their group.
- Should a child go missing, please let a volunteer know immediately with the child's description. Our search procedures and safety protocol will then be set in motion.
- We request that participants do not bring two-way radios as they interfere with the Festival's communication lines.
- Pittock Reservoir is off limits.
- Pittock Conservation Area will be open to the public during the Festival. Please notify a volunteer if you notice any suspicious persons within the Festival area.
- In the event of sudden severe weather, the Festival Coordinator will blow an air horn 3 times and you will be directed to your bus (buses will be used as shelter during severe weather).
- Cancellation Policy – if unsafe weather develops such that the Festival is cancelled before you arrive at the Festival, the Safety Committee will notify the bus company and each school before 8:30 am.
- No refunds will be issued for student absences or class cancellations after April 2. If the Festival is cancelled due to severe weather prior to arrival, efforts will be made to reschedule classes. If this isn't possible, refunds will be issued.

Festival Scheduler

Choose a few activity stations you would like your students to visit, (descriptions and curriculum links are online at www.childrenswaterfestival.ca). Plan to visit stations in random order.

Area A		Area B	
	Attack of the Aquatic Invaders		DO The Limbo
	Be Water Smart		Farm Grow Bingo
	Beach Postings		Farmer and the Fish
	Doing the Laundry		Go Fish!
	Down the Drain or Not		Moo's Thirsty
	Eagle Survivor		Perfect Pipelines
	From Machine to Clean		Plants Dig Water
	Good, Better, Great Lakes		Rollin' Through the Shed
	Lather Up		Three Times A Day
	Livable City		Treating Trash
	No Water Off A Duck's Back		Water Bodies
	Off I Go		Water Cycle Tag
	Protect the Source		Water for Everyone
	Royal Flush		Water for the World
	Toxic Tiny Town		We Use That Much
	Watery Words		
	Wetland Quest	Area D	
	Wise Water Use		A-maze-ing Water Treatment
Area C			Bioblitz
	Bucket Brigade		Drop in the Bucket
	Road Salt: The Good, the Bad, & the Salty		Enviroscape: Wetlands
	Rockin' Soil Health		Life in a Watery World
	Well Art		Microplastics
	Well Drill It		Simply Divine
	Well Sealed		Weighing Our Choices

Making the Most of the Festival



Preparing Students for the Festival and Pre-lesson Plan Ideas

- Discuss the purpose of the field trip to the festival and how it will relate to the current unit(s) of study.
- Introduce potentially new vocabulary words that will be used at the festival (i.e. invasive species, aquatic, watershed, water cycle).
- As a class, brainstorm a set of standards of conduct for the trip and discuss the festival site, lunch plans, appropriate clothing to wear for the trip including gear for rainy weather.
- Discuss with students how to ask good questions and brainstorm a list of open-ended observation questions to gather information during their visit. Record questions on chart paper or in student field trip journals.
- Assign student groups "specialist" roles in one water theme (e.g. attitude, science, conservation, preservation and technology) that they will be learning about.
- Encourage students to share observations, make sketches and take notes about what they learned about their theme during the festival. The parent supervisors can help with this.

Debriefing after the Festival and Post Lesson Plan Ideas

- Provide time for students to share general observations and reactions to their field trip experience. Have student group "specialist" share specific observations or information they learned about their water theme while at the festival.
- Link field trip stations to multiple curricular areas. For example, students can develop vocabulary lists based on field trip observations; record field trip observations in a classroom journal; create a bulletin board about their experiences etc.
- Create a short news report about what happened on the field trip. Publicize the trip via an article in your local newspaper, school bulletin board, trip presentation for parent's night, or class web page.
- Have each student complete the "student evaluation" sheet attached. Encourage them to include favorite objects or special information learned during the field trip.

Additional Water Resources



Resources for Teachers	Resources for Students
<u>Canada Water Week</u>	<u>American Water Works Association</u>
<u>Canadian Geographic</u>	<u>NASA Space Place</u>
<u>Ducks Unlimited</u>	<u>National Geographic Kids</u>
<u>Earth Day Canada</u>	<u>Project Wet</u>
<u>Environment and Climate Change Canada</u>	<u>Southwestern Ontario YMCA Activity Pages</u>
<u>Groundwater Foundation</u>	<u>Water Use It Wisely</u>
<u>H3LP Environmental Leaders Program</u>	
<u>Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks</u>	
<u>Ontario Groundwater Association</u>	
<u>Ontario Parks Discovery Programs</u>	
<u>TD Friends of the Environment Foundation</u>	
<u>The Ripple Effect Education (TREE)</u>	
<u>The Water Brothers</u>	
<u>The Water Project</u>	
<u>United Nations</u>	
<u>Upper Thames River Conservation Authority</u>	
<u>Water Docs</u>	
<u>Water Rangers</u>	
<u>World Wildlife Fund</u>	

Teacher Evaluation

Thank you for participating in the 2025 Children's Water Festival! Please help us improve future festivals by completing the evaluation form online at: <https://tinyurl.com/2025TeacherEvaluation>.
Or print and return to: 1424 Clarke Rd, London, ON, N5V 5B9, Fax: 519-451-1188

Did you enjoy the Children's Water Festival? Yes ☐ No ☐

Did you attend the Teacher Orientation Session? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please comment on the format and information provided:

Was the "Planning Guide for Teachers" informative and helpful? Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you feel the Festival activities complement the curriculum? Yes ☐ No ☐

Did your students enjoy their participation in the Festival? Yes ☐ No ☐

What has their feedback been to you?

Would you bring your class to a future Festival? Yes ☐ No ☐

How would you characterize the activities in relation to your students' learning level?

Too high ☐ Just right ☐ Below ☐

Please rate the activity station presenters.

Poor ☐ Fair ☐ Good ☐ Excellent ☐

Did any of the presenters stand out?

Any general comments:

School name:

 Grade :

Date of visit:

Student Evaluation



What I liked about the 2025 Children's Water Festival:

School name: _____ Grade: _____

Date of visit: _____

Please mail to:
Water Festival Coordinator
c/o Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
1424 Clarke Road, London, ON N5V 5B9



ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Planning begins 6-8 months prior to the Festival and involves representatives from the following organizations. It's the hard work and dedication of these individuals which make the Festival a success!

City of Woodstock
Conseil Scolaire Catholique Providence
General Motors of Canada Company – CAMI Assembly Plant
Kettle Creek Conservation Authority
Lake Huron & Elgin Area Water Supply Systems
London District Catholic School Board
Long Point Region Conservation Authority
Oxford Coalition for Social Justice
Oxford County
Oxford County Federation of Agriculture
Southwestern Public Health
Thames Valley District School Board
Unifor Local 88
Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

Water Festival Sponsors

The Success of the Festival depends on strong community partnerships and charitable contributions. We wish to thank all supporters!

Great Lakes (\$10,000 +)

London District Catholic School Board
Oxford County
Thames Valley District School Board
Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

Watershed (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

City of Woodstock
Drumbo Tents
Lake Huron and Elgin Area Primary Water Supply Systems
TD Friends of the Environment
Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada Inc.
Southwestern Public Health
Woodstock Environmental Advisory Committee

River (\$1 - \$4,999)

Canada's Outdoor Farm Show
Conseil Scolaire Catholique Providence
Environmental 360 Solutions Ltd
General Motors of Canada Company – CAMI Assembly Plant
Kettle Creek Conservation Authority
Huron Tractor
LMaC Community CPR
Long Point Region Conservation Area
Ontario Federation of Agriculture
Oxford Coalition for Social Justice
Oxford County Federation of Agriculture
Premier Equipment
Stewardship Oxford
St. Thomas-Elgin Children's Water Festival
Unifor Local 27
Unifor Local 88
Woodstock Lions Club
Woodstock Museum

Stream Sponsor (up to \$999)

Innerkip Lions
MRC Wireless
Oxford County Junior Farmers
Taplay Fire Protection Inc.
Thames River Melons

This year we're excited to be hosting a **Free Family Event** featuring some of the Water Festival stations along with many other community partners who are not part of the regular field trip portion of the Festival!



OXFORD CHILDREN'S WATER FESTIVAL FREE FAMILY NIGHT!



Canoeing



Hands-on activities



Live bird shows



Food
Trucks!

Pittock Conservation Area May 15, 5 to 8 pm

Join us for Family Night at the Oxford Children's Water Festival! This free event is packed with exciting, hands-on activities about water. Bring the family (rain or shine) to explore, learn, and have a splashing good time!

Event highlights: Water-themed activity stations – Paddling at Pittock Reservoir – Big trucks
Community partner booths – Food trucks – Live Bird Shows!

ONLINE
INFORMATION



MORE
INFORMATION

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