



Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority

Children's Water Festival Helps Students Answer the Big Water Questions

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ALBUQUERQUE – The Duke of Waste-A-Lot and Yvette the Toilette will be just two of the new additions to this year's Children's Water Festival, the Water Authority's annual education event for Albuquerque fourth graders.

The event, scheduled for Oct. 20 and 21 at the Albuquerque Convention Center, will also feature 24 different hands-on water activities. These include a brand new "Pollution Detective" activity and "Go With the Flow," an introduction to hydrological engineering. Whether it's learning about "indicator species" or how to turn river water into drinking water, an important outcome for the event is that students and teachers learn what they can personally do to conserve water and keep source water clean.

Also grabbing the kids' interest will be the Duke, who will educate participants about the benefits of tap water vs. bottled water, and Yvette, who will reward students who can answer her water-related questions.

Approximately 1,100 pre-registered fourth graders from both public and private schools in the Albuquerque area are slated to participate in the event, now in its 13th year.

Local scientists, engineers and educators volunteer their time to lead activities at the festival, which taps the expertise of government agencies, businesses and professional organizations.

In addition to the children's water festival, the Water Authority provides an extensive K-12 outreach program, including: classroom presentations customized for each grade level; a puppet show for students in grades K-2; a tour of the Southside Water Reclamation Plant for students in grade 4 or higher; Project WET teacher professional development workshops; and many online classroom resources including digital water tours, sing-along water songs, and a video about the energy-water nexus. Spanish language classroom presentations are also available.

Since 1999, more than 13,000 fourth grade students and 650 teachers from the Albuquerque area have participated in this event. For more information about this year's festival, which runs for two days from 9:45 am-1:00 p.m., contact Katie Babuska, Experiential EE, LLC, at 505-975-0036, or visit <http://www.abcwua.org/education/WaterFest.html>.