

Hi teachers! It was so great to meet some of you while I was out and about at different convocations. If you're new here, this is the first teacher newsletter of the 26-27 school year! These newsletters are sent every other month, so look out for the next one in October! If there are any other resources you would like to see in this newsletter (book recommendations, online resources, etc.), please don't hesitate to reach out to me at grace.daughtrey@trswcd.org!

THREE RIVERS SWCD TEACHER NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2026 | ISSUE 12

A MESSAGE FROM GRACE

Hello Teachers! I hope you had a wonderful and restful summer—welcome to the 2026–2027 school year! If you are new here, my name is Grace Daughtrey and I am the Education and Outreach Coordinator at Three Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District.

As you settle back into your routines, I want to remind you that I'm here to support you however I can. In this newsletter, you'll find a list of resources that Three Rivers SWCD offers both in and out of the classroom. Whether you're interested in mini grants, hands-on lessons, field trips, or more, we're here to help bring environmental education into your classrooms!

TEACHER MINI GRANTS

Three Rivers is offering a limited amount of mini grants to teachers in Essex, King William, and King and Queen Counties.

Our Mini Grant Program supports hands-on projects and materials like terrariums, hydroponic gardens, water quality kits, composting systems, and pollinator gardens that inspire students to care for our natural resources.

Applications are due by **September 11, 2026**. Apply now to secure funding for your project ideas!

You can find our application on our website (www.trswcd.org) or by emailing Grace at grace.daughtrey@trswcd.org.



NACD POSTER CONTEST

It is time for the National Association of Conservation District (NACD) Annual Poster Contest! This contest provides K-12 students the ability to show how they feel about soil, water, and other natural resource issues through art.

This contest starts at the district level and have the ability to move up to state and national levels. Submissions from students will also be entered into a local poster contest run by Three Rivers SWCD.

Posters are due to Three Rivers SWCD by October 9th, 2026. This year's theme is "Soil. Where it All Begins"! If you have any questions, please reach out to grace.daughtrey@trswcd.org!



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INTERACTIVE SOIL TENT

We have an interactive 10x20 Soil Tent that provides students with the experience of seeing what life looks like under your feet! If you are interested in having the tent come to your school, please reach out to grace.daughtrey@trswcd.org.



SOL CAPSULES

We have SOL Capsules for check out! The capsules are hands-on kits aligned with Virginia's Science Standards of Learning, designed for Pre-K through 6th grade. Each capsule includes a fun, interactive activity that teach students about natural resources, conservation, and the environment. Reserve one for your classroom by emailing grace.daughtrey@trswcd.org!



STREAM CRIME INVESTIGATION (SCI)

This lab activity, originally created by the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services Stormwater Planning Division, was created in order to provide awareness to common "kitchen chemistry" to show reactions between different pollutants, as well as problem solving skills for the students to investigate and identify the pollutants. This lab also aligns with several different SOLs including: 6.1, 6.8, 6.9, LS.1, LS.9, BIO.1, BIO.2, BIO.4, BIO.8, ES.1, ES.8, ES.10. Three Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District has permission to run this lab in YOUR classroom!



CONTACT

Please don't hesitate to reach out!

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