Hello! As the Information and Education Coordinator for the South Platte Natural Resources District (SPNRD) I look forward to working with you and your school this year! The SPNRD is one of 23 NRDs in Nebraska and we are charged with the management, development and protection of soil and water resources. The SPNRD covers all of Kimball, Cheyenne, and Deuel Counties.

My position includes the responsibility for distributing information to the residents of the District and to educate our citizens. Our goal here at the SPNRD is to reach out to our youth as well as our adults and offer programs that enhance school curriculums already in place.

We have several programs already developed and look forward to working with schools to build our program more. Our hope is to assist you in the education of our youth and provide you additional materials and resources as you continue building a solid educational foundation for our children.

If the programs offered here do not meet your needs or you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

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**K - 3 Programs**

Wants vs. Needs - Kindergarten/1st grade - 20 minutes
Gives students the choice of what they may want vs. what they really need ex. water or lemonade students need water but may want lemonade.

Little/Big Match - Kindergarten/1st grade - 20 minutes
Students match pictures of various animals that are babies and grown up. Then the students compare the similarities and differences between them.

My Favorite Animal - 2nd Grade - 40 minutes
Students draw their favorite animal then match in which habitat they would survive best. Includes a power point presentation.

Pollinators - 3rd Grade - 40 minutes
Students watch a power point presentation followed by matching pollinators to the plants they would pollinate.

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**4th Grade**

**Western Nebraska Children’s Ground Water Festival**

The Western Nebraska Children’s Ground Water Festival enters its 28th year in spring 2018. Geared towards 4th graders, the day long event teaches students about the aquifer, water use, water quality, and water conservation. Please select the best possible dates on the questionnaire.

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**ACE Camp/Range Camp Scholarships**

Each year the District offers scholarships to Adventure Camp about the Environment (ACE) Camp and Range Camp. Both camps are held at the Nebraska State 4-H Camp in the Nebraska National Forest near Halsey and offer a wide range of outdoor activities that provide learning opportunities mixed in with fun activities such as tubing and a zip line. More information will be provided later in the school year.

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**Poster Contest**

This year will be the return of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) poster contest. Materials will be given out to each school in mid-September for participation in the poster contest. This year’s theme is “Watersheds - Our Water, Our Home”. The contest will be available to all K - 9 grade students.

*Powerpoint presentation available*

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**5 - 6 Programs**

Rainfall on the Plains - 5th/6th grade - 40 minutes
Students first find several communities on the Nebraska map and draw them onto a blank Nebraska map and add how much rainfall falls annually in each community. Then they color in a color key the difference in rainfall across the state. A short series of questions follows. Includes a power point presentation.

**Contact Information**

For interest in any of the programs listed please contact Shelly Gerk at:

South Platte Natural Resources District
PO Box 294
Sidney, NE, 69162
(308) 254-2377
sgerk@spnrd.org

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Information will be dropped off at each school in mid-September, 2018