



Water and Energy Education Newsletter

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Hello Teachers,

Happy New Year! We're happy to share that more salmonids continue to return to the Russian River to spawn. The Fish Hatchery at Lake Sonoma is now open to the public from 10am-3pm daily. If you can stop by at 10:30am, you may catch our technicians handling fish in preparation for spawning. We also have school tours available if you want to bring your students! See below for more details.

We also still have availability for our **free classroom and field programs** for grades TK/K, 3, 5, 6-8, and 9-12.

Our **free schools supplies** program is available to all grades in select cities.

In this newsletter:

- **High School Video Contest** – students and schools win prize money
- **Climate Change Teacher Workshop** – TK-6 teachers, June 16-20, 2025
- **High School Electricity & Climate Change** – classroom and field program
- **Lake Sonoma Steelhead School Tours** – all grades now through May
- **Lake Sonoma Steelhead Festival** – free public event February 8, 2025
- **Salmon Activities** – celebrate salmon migration with these classroom crafts

Thank you for sharing your energy with us and your students as we work together to foster the next generation of scientific thinkers and environmental stewards.

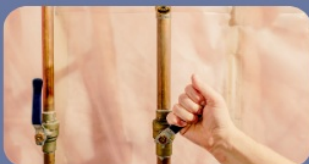
- The Water and Energy Education Team at Sonoma Water

High School Water Careers Video Contest

2025 HIGH SCHOOL VIDEO CONTEST [● REC]

Water Careers Unleashed: Navigating the Blue Path

Create a 55-second video to inspire viewers to consider water-related professions.



SUBMISSION DEADLINE
6th MARCH 2025



WIN MONEY AND EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY!

★ FIRST PLACE ★

\$1,500

★ SECOND PLACE ★

\$1,000

★ THIRD PLACE ★

\$500

SONOMAWATER.ORG/VIDEO-CONTESTS



Sonoma Water and the Russian River Watershed Association are pleased to announce the 2025 High School Video Contest. Students and schools can win prize money! Winning videos are used as public service announcements and educational outreach materials.

The 2025 contest theme is "Water Careers Unleashed: Navigating the Blue Path."

Students are encouraged to explore various roles within the water sector, interview professionals, and visit workplaces. They will combine storytelling and research in a 55-second video to inspire viewers to consider water-related professions that play a crucial role in safeguarding our planet's most vital resource.

Please visit the [2025 High School Video Contest](https://sonomawater.org/video-contests) website for details and guidelines, including tips for conducting informational interviews and a directory of local water professionals who volunteered to be interviewed for this project. Students can also view past years' winning videos for inspiration.

The video submission deadline is March 6, 2025.

Check out last year's top three videos on the theme of low impact development:



[Learn more about the High School Video Contest](#)

Climate Change Teacher Workshop

June 16 - 20, 2025

TEACHER WORKSHOP

Elementary School Teachers
Grades TK-6

Climate Change and Resilience in the North Bay

JUNE 16-20, 2025
9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM

In this 5-day workshop,
participants will learn from 5
organizations how to engage
students with local climate
change education
opportunities.

ATTENDEES WILL:

Earn \$750 for 5 days of training
and lesson creation, with an
additional \$250 for lesson
implementation.

Work with a credentialed educator
to turn workshop experiences into
curriculum aligned with NGSS.

CEU credits available

DAY 5-SONOMA CLEAN POWER
Switch to all electric

DAY 1-PEPPERWOOD PRESERVE
Grasslands and carbon
sequestration

Day 2-LANDPATHS
Climate change solutions in
the garden

DAY 3-SONOMA WATER
Climate change and the
Russian River

DAY 4-SC REGIONAL PARKS
Climate change at the Sonoma
County coast

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT:

✉ Trisha.Meisler@scwa.ca.gov

APPLICATIONS DUE:
FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2025

www.sonomawater.org/workshops



We're looking forward to another successful 5-day workshop for up to 25 TK-6 grade teachers this summer. Teachers are invited to apply for this paid, 5-day workshop with local organizations working to address climate change in Sonoma County.

Field trips will explore topics ranging from grassland restoration and land stewardship informed with Traditional Ecological Knowledge, to water resource security, changing ocean conditions, renewable energy and electrification, solutions-focused projects at school, and how to talk about climate change with students. Each day includes an afternoon work block with support from certified teachers to develop lessons and curriculum informed by NGSS.

Applications are due by May 2, 2025.

Watch the short video below to see the field trips our 2024 cohort enjoyed and what they learned!



Day 4 of the teacher workshop at Bodega Marine Lab

Teachers learn about research and restoration of bull kelp in the Greater Farallon's Marine Sanctuary with Julieta Gómez.



Apply for our 2025 Teacher Workshop

High School Electricity & Climate Change Program



Classroom Lesson

This two-part high school program starts with a **free one-hour classroom lesson** where students consider the connection between turning on a light and the impact on Earth's changing climate. Students compare the electricity used, heat output, costs, and amount of CO₂ emitted from using an incandescent bulb versus an LED bulb.



Field Trip

The classroom lesson helps prepare students for a **75-minute field trip to Sonoma Clean Power's Customer Center**. Students work together to solve a fun, escape-room inspired climate change challenge while learning about local climate change solutions.

All of our field trips are **free** and include a **limited number of free bus trips**.

These programs are funded by **Sonoma Clean Power**: Sonoma and Mendocino county's local, customer-owned, non-profit electricity provider whose mission is to turn the tide on the climate crisis through bold ideas and practical programs.

Register for High School Programs

Lake Sonoma Steelhead School Tours

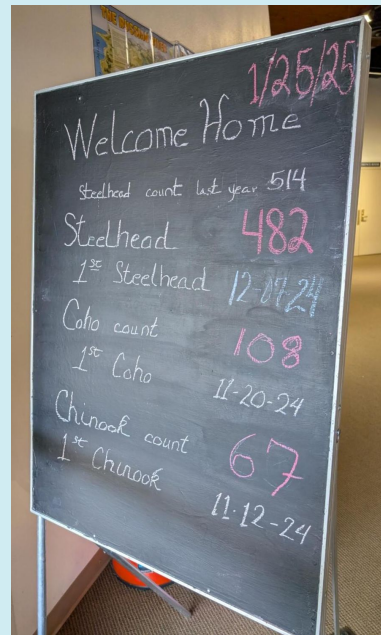
We are excited to announce tours this winter and spring 2025!



Lake Sonoma Steelhead School Tours are offered in partnership with **Sonoma Water**, the **Army Corps of Engineers** and **Friends of Lake Sonoma**.

Please visit lakesonomaeducation.org and sign up for a steelhead school tour the to make your request for your group. Note that the tour will include the Warm Springs Fish Hatchery.

Group sizes are usually limited to 2 classes, please use one teacher as point of contact. Our program begins promptly at 10 am. Tours last for approximately one and a half hours.



Request a Lake Sonoma Steelhead School Tour

Lake Sonoma Steelhead Festival

February 8, 2025 | 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Free family fun!

The 16th Annual
**Lake Sonoma
Steelhead
Festival**

Saturday, February 8, 2025
10 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

A free, family-friendly event
offering fun entertainment
and activities everyone will
enjoy.

Milt Brandt Visitors Center &
Congressman Don Clausen Fish Hatchery
3288 Skaggs Springs Road, Geyserville



LAKE SONOMA
**STEELHEAD
FESTIVAL**



steelheadfestival.org



**Festival
Hosts:**



The Lake Sonoma Steelhead Festival is one of California's biggest and best celebrations of the endangered steelhead trout, which return annually to the Congressman Don Clausen Fish Hatchery at Lake Sonoma to spawn the next generation of fish.

Activities and exhibits at this **free** event have included the Bird Rescue Center, Sonoma Water, CAL FIRE, the Coast Guard and Sonoma County Bowmen. Live music, an ever-popular bubble show, arts and crafts, and fishing-themed games keep everyone entertained.

Visit the Lake Sonoma Steelhead Festival website for more information.

We look forward to seeing you on **February 8th, 2025!**

[Learn more about the Steelhead Festival](#)

Salmon Activities

Model salmon migration with a fun jumping cup activity developed by one of our educators, Monique Walker, with this [video tutorial](#) and [instructions](#).

For older students, check out these

advanced activities.

Or for those rainy days, lead your students through a series of salmon-inspired stretches with [salmon life cycle yoga](#).

LEAPING SALMON

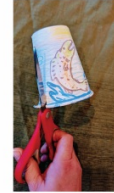
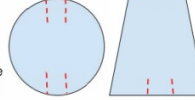
What you will need:

- 2 white cups
- Blank piece of paper to draw and color salmon, feel free to use ours.
- Scissors
- Glue
- 1 rubber band

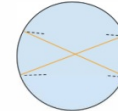


Step 1:
Color one cup to look like the river.
Color the second cup to look like the sky.
You will also color our salmon, or draw and color your own on the white piece of paper. Then cut out your salmon and glue it/them onto the sky/fish cup.

Step 2:
On the wide mouth end of the sky/fish cup make 2 small cuts on opposite sides for a total of 4 cuts.



Step 3:
Place rubberband around the cut "tabs" making sure to twist once in the middle of the cup.
Once the rubberband is secure, place the sky/fish cup on top of the river cup, push down and release to make the salmon jump out of the river!



Check out the [video tutorial](#) on YouTube!

<https://youtube.com/shorts/cAE21dCybys?feature=share>

Leaping Salmon Cup Activity Video Tutorial

Happy Holidays from The Water and Energy Education Team



From left to right: Jennifer Parra, Sarah Wickersham, Trisha Meisler, Eva Brown, Janeen Delsid, Audrey Fry, Monique Walker, Mayla Romano, David Berman

Questions? Email us at: WaterEd@scwa.ca.gov

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