

Sonoma Water – Adopt-A-Creek Program

Dear Teacher,

Thank you for signing up for the Adopt-A-Creek: A Watershed Approach Program. Our program focuses on mapping, monitoring, and making a difference. The program runs October through May and can be implemented in a variety of different ways based on your grade level, class size, and curriculum. Below, is a brief overview of the Adopt-A-Creek program.

Getting Started

1. An initial phone call with a water education staff person to assess your interests and what you currently cover in watershed science, and to explore options for your class(s).
2. A meeting to plan out specific program design and timing. If we will be utilizing a local creek for stewardship and monitoring, we will conduct a reconnaissance of the creek at that time.
3. A fall or early spring class visit to introduce students to the program. The class visit will include a mapping activity and hands-on science activity. The exact nature of class visit will depend on the length of class time, overall program design, grade level and your priorities.

Program Components

1. **Mapping:** includes a mapping activities of the local watershed, creek, and community.
 - [Students and Streams Map](#) – Sonoma Water resource map
 - [Watershed Mapping](#) – Sonoma Land Trust
 - [Community Mapping 101](#) – Jane Goodall
 - [Model My Watershed](#) – Wikiwatershed Program
2. **Monitoring:** biotic factors, water quality (with a [water quality app](#) from the Stroud Research Center) and precipitation ([CoCoRaHS Program](#)). [Sonoma County Real-time Rainfall, River-Stream, and Reservoir Data \(sonoma.onerain.com website\)](#). We have water quality kits to check out.
3. **Making a difference:** includes a variety of possible creek stewardship projects such as creek cleanup, additional monitoring, ongoing water quality assessment, aquatic macro-invertebrate study, [iNaturalists projects](#), invasive plant species removal, Steelhead in the Classroom Program (when available), as well as other possible projects. Make a difference projects will begin with engaging students in project planning at your creek site.
4. **Project presentation:** at the school site or to a community group (late spring).

The Adopt-A-Creek Program builds upon your current science curriculum and support you in implementing NGSS science standards and [project based learning](#). We look forward to working with you in making this program a success.

Please call or email with any questions.

Sincerely,

David Berman

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