

WEN Introduction Video Transcript

0:00 The Watershed Education Network is a 501c 3 non-profit. Their mission is to foster knowledge and appreciation and awareness of watershed health through science and outreach.

0:12 WEN is unique in that it is a perfect marriage of science and really good education as well as teaching people the values of their watershed and being able to connect with everyone in the community. We're not political. We don't take sides on important issues. So, everyone can appreciate our programs even if they disagree fundamentally about rivers in terms of how we need to manage waterways in terms of politics. Everyone can still appreciate water. We all need water for our daily lives. We teach the public about the science of watersheds so that they can know about their local water so they can make informed decisions as adults and so they can have a deeper appreciation for their local water.

1:05 While students are at the river, they're learning science in all of our programs. Adults, too, for Stream Team. But they're also building memorable experiences at the river and having fun. It's very experiential. Whenever we do a field trip, we'll introduce a concept as a group, go over important vocabulary, always go over safety procedures, especially down at the river. It's important to make sure you're safe with kids. Then we'll split them up into groups and we'll go over really interactive stations where we learn about ground water, surface water, the biology of the rivers so we'll get them in the water kicking up bugs, have them doing chemical tests on the river to see about the water's chemistry. And then at the end we have them determine whether or not they think it's healthy.

1:50 It's well known that students, anyone, students and adults, learn better when they experience something rather than just hearing about it in a lecture. And so, WEN's programs are important and they're unique because they help the public really experience their watershed.