

Bulletin

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for Educators

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management's (IDEM) mission is to protect the environment and human health. IDEM ensures Indiana's land is safe to live on, air is safe to breathe, and water is safe to drink. IDEM's environmental educator is a resource for you!

Latest News

Governor's Summer Interns!

This summer, we welcomed Governor's Summer Intern Lauren Maki to our team! Lauren is an environmental management major at IU and is interested in public service and environmental advocacy.

Internship opportunities like Lauren's help introduce young adults to the world of public service and the work opportunities the Indiana State government has to offer, while providing much-needed assistance to fulfill IDEM's mission.

If you know any college students interested in public service or looking for a 2026 summer internship, tell them to visit [IN.gov/spd/workforindiana/internships](https://www.in.gov/spd/workforindiana/internships) to learn more about the opportunities with the State of Indiana and IDEM!



Featured Program

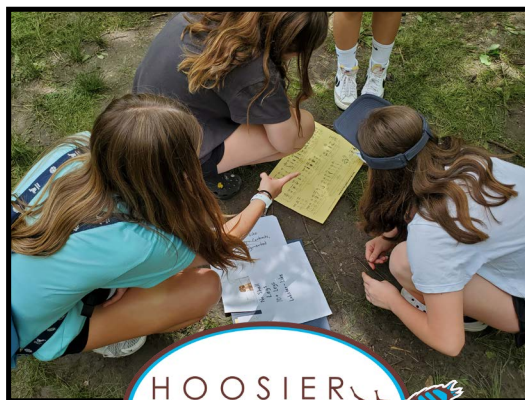
Hoosier Riverwatch Junior!

An exciting new program is coming to Indiana this fall: **Hoosier Riverwatch Junior!** [Hoosier Riverwatch](https://www.in.gov/riverwatch) (HRW) is a stream monitoring program managed by IDEM to engage the public in the process of water monitoring and to contribute to the collection of water quality data throughout the state.

While HRW is geared toward adult volunteers, there has been a need and demand for similar education geared toward youth in grades K-12. This hands-on experience can be adapted to indoor or outdoor spaces and may include exploring stream habitats near you. The lessons will explore concepts like watersheds, pollution, and water monitoring. Students will learn how to collect and identify macroinvertebrates and determine the physical and chemical characteristics of the stream. When they put this information together, they can assess the health of the stream.

All lessons are tied to Indiana's education standards, and the lesson modules come at little to no cost. Information for this program will be available on the HRW website this fall.

Any further questions about this program can be directed to riverwatch@idem.in.gov.



Upcoming Events

Celebrate Science Indiana

Oct. 11 ~ 9:30 a.m.- 5 p.m.
Indiana State Fairgrounds,
Exhibition Hall
celebratescienceindiana.org

Environmental Education Association of Indiana Annual Conference

Nov. 14-16
Clifty Falls State Park
eeai.org/2025-Conference

Pacers STEM Fest

Jan. 31, 2026
Gainbridge Fieldhouse

Hoosier Association of Science Teachers Annual Conference

Feb. 20-22
Noblesville High School
hasti.org



Topics to Share

Reviving the Grand Calumet River

[The Great Lakes Areas of Concern story map](#) is a great way to engage your middle and high school students on real world environmental topics in Indiana and throughout the Great Lakes region. They can learn about human impacts on these habitats, past and current restoration efforts, and best management practices going forward.

If you are in a Great Lakes Area of Concern (AOC), the [Helping Hands Curriculum](#) provides hands-on activities that directly apply to schools located in these AOCs, but can also be used by any teacher interested in incorporating these stories into their coursework.



Activity Corner

Candy Wrapper Turkey

- 1. Have students collect Halloween candy** wrappers that were going to be thrown away.
- 2. Print out template/outline** of a turkey body, if needed.
- 3. Bring glue**, scissors, googly eyes, and anything else that would be a fun addition!
- 4. Have students either glue down candy wrappers** or color in the body section of the turkey.
- 5. The main fun is the feathers!** Students should make the turkey feathers in whatever pattern they want out of candy wrappers.
- 6. To give them extra creative freedom**, let them decide what they will create with their candy wrappers. It could be a Halloween theme (spiders, bats, jack-o-lanterns) or a fall theme (leaves, turkeys, pumpkins, etc.).



Resources

Earth Rangers

Earth Rangers provides a variety of online resources for educators, parents, and kids. From K-6 curriculum to podcasts to project ideas, they can help you to engage your students in learning about and engaging in activities that help to conserve and protect our environment. Their resources are free and available online: earthrangers.com.



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Indiana Department
of Environmental
Management