



NATIONAL GREAT RIVERS
RESEARCH • EDUCATION • OUTREACH

2024-2025 School-year

WATER FESTIVAL ON WHEELS (WOW) INITIATIVE - IMPACT REPORT

WOW! For the first time in over 20 years, severe weather forced the cancellation of Water Festival in September of 2024. All that hype and anticipation met with a stormy, gusty Friday—but National Great Rivers' Waterschool USA Program, funded by the Swarovski Foundation, wasn't about to let the day go to waste. Instead, we rolled out a brand-new experience: Water Festival on Wheels (WOW).

This special mobile version of our signature event brought hands-on water education directly to schools, parks, and community spaces. Students gathered for energetic, half-day field trips that were every bit as engaging and fun as our traditional fall festival—proving that rain or shine, water learning flows on.



IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS:

680

students reached across **5**
separate Water Festival field
trips.

25

hands-on water education
activity stations across our
WOW series.

100%

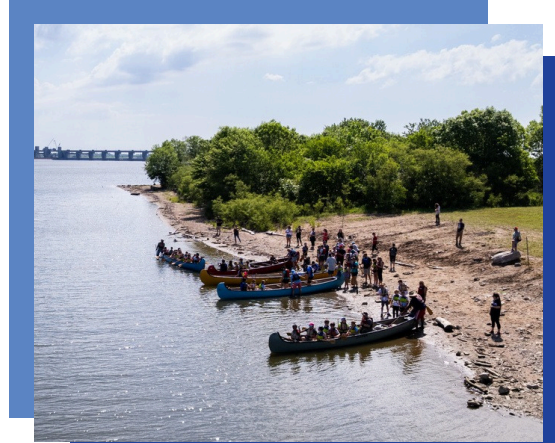
of surveyed students (n=472) left WOW saying **YES**, I think protecting water from pollution is important for future generations.



A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR

EXHIBITING PARTNERS:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers The
- Nature Institute Illinois State
- Historic Site TreeHouse Wildlife
- Audubon Center at Riverlands St.
- Louis University WATER Institute
- Southern Illinois University -
- Edwardsville STEM Center
- Madison County CAREE (Ag in the Classroom)
- Sierra Club (Piasa-Palisades Chapter)
- St. Louis Zoo
- MadCo GreenSchools
- Illinois RiverWatch
- Big Muddy Adventures



PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS:

- North Elementary
- East Elementary
- Lovejoy School (Academic Development Inst.)
- Estelle Kampmeyer Elementary
- Trinity Lutheran
- East Alton Middle School
- Henning Elementary School



AND LARGEST SPONSORS:

