



Hello!

Thank you for choosing an Elkhart County SWCD Educational Kit. In each kit created, everything is included to carry out a lesson in relation to soil and water conservation. Each kit comes with at least one lesson plan and the tools and equipment you need to complete it.

The lesson plans that are included are formatted to be more of a discussion rather than a lecture, so the students are more engaged in their learning. They start off with some background information in the form of bulleted questions that are then answered below. Asking questions helps to get students *thinking* about what they are learning rather than just listening.

Following the background information, you will find a list of supplies all of which should be included in the kit. Then you will see a directions section that will give instructions for an activity. Each activity is different and most of them can be adapted to different ages or learning abilities. In each kit there are copies of lessons and information for you to keep.

Rules for using kits:

1. Firstly, HAVE FUN! These kits were designed to be engaging so that students can have fun while they learn.
2. Please be respectful of the kits and handle them with care. These are used all over the county and we would like to continue to share the fun.
3. Accidents happen and things break. Should this happen in your care please let us know upon returning the kit so that we may fix it for the next person.
4. Keep it clean. Same as with #2 we would like others to enjoy the kit as well.
5. If things go missing please let us know so that we can replace it.
6. Each kit comes with a list of things that should be in the kit. Upon receiving the kit, please make sure that everything is there.
7. Before returning the kit please double check that everything is in the box. If there are some consumable items that are low or missing please let us know so that we can refill them.
8. Lastly, make it your own! These kits are tools and we know that what we have planned for them may not be how they fit into your curriculum. You can use it however you see fit. Don't like our lesson plans? Create your own! Want to add something and make it more relevant? Go for it!

Thanks again for choosing to help spread conservation throughout the county. Please let us know if you have any questions or ideas of how we can help improve our kits.

Best Regards,

The Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District