

ONE-YEAR PLAN FOR MESA WATER EDUCATION CENTER

April 24, 2024



Mesa Water Education Center Purpose

- Educate the community about:
 - Where our water comes from (100% local sources)
 - Water quality and safety
 - Water infrastructure
 - Careers in water
 - And more!

Target Audiences (Year 1)

- NMUSD fifth grade classes
- Local private school fifth grade classes
- Homeschool groups
- Youth community groups/clubs (e.g. Girl Scouts/Boy Scouts)
- Civic and community organizations
- Industry and other VIPs

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STEM Education Partner: Brain Builders

Mesa Water selected STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) educators Brain Builders to work with staff to develop the following:

- Curriculum workbook
- Docent training and staffing
- Outreach to fifth grade teachers
- Field trip coordination with NMUSD fifth grade teachers

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Fifth Grade Field Trip Components

- Pre-visit activity (vocabulary BINGO) prepares students for the visit and frontloads vocabulary
- Tour of the MWECC
- Hands-on STEM activity at the MWECC
- Swag—branded lanyard, pencil and water bottle
- Post-field trip survey
- Parent education brochure

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Accompanying Curriculum Workbook

- Aligns with fifth grade Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)
- Formatted to be a fun comic book style
- Pages connect directly to exhibits
- Designed to be a “treasure hunt”

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Hands-on Engineering Activity



- Build a groundwater well in an aquifer
- Recharge the groundwater and extract water over and over!
- Post-visit activity reinforces learning with a hands-on project that incorporates NGSS standards

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Transportation Stipends



- For schools where transportation costs may be a barrier, Mesa Water can provide a stipend for transportation costs
- Estimated cost is less than \$300 per bus

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Format for Field Trips

- Meet participants at the bus to pass out nametags, curriculum workbook and pencils
- Welcome and instructions
- Students explore the exhibits independently in small groups and complete their curriculum workbooks
- Docents circulate and provide additional context, answer questions and fun facts
- End with hands-on STEM activity

Format for Small Groups and VIP Tours

- Docent-guided (Mesa Water staff)
- Enter main doors for Board of Directors welcome
- Enter the MVEC and explore the exhibits and theaters
- Exit to gazebo and redwood forest, well site and water-wise gardens
- Visit nanofiltration room
- Option to end tour in MVEC small conference room for a brief discussion

Post-Visit Survey

- 5-minute online survey
- Survey students, teachers, adult chaperones and community visitors, and disaggregate the data by groups
- Classes/schools that complete the surveys will get priority booking for the following year

Plan, Teach, Reflect, Apply

- **Plan** talking points, tour routes and hands-on activity
- **“Teach”** the tour and activities
- **Reflect** immediately on what went well and what needs improvement
- **Apply** new practices to the next field trip/tour
- Repeat this cycle until objectives are met

QUESTIONS?

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