



10-Minute Supervisor Trainings

Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission

MARCH 2012

EARTH TEAM VOLUNTEERS

Earth Team volunteers are able to work side by side with professionals from NRCS, helping to protect and conserve the earth's natural resources. These volunteers could be a significant resource for the NRCS staff in conservation districts, helping the districts to help people conserve, improve and sustain our resources and environment.

How can an Earth Team volunteer help?

On the Land – working with conservationists who are working with land owners

Soil Mapping	Surveying	Water Sampling
Native Grass Seeding	Resource Inventories	Establishing Wildlife Habitat
Planting Trees	Conservation Practice Layout	

With Organizations – working with youth groups, professional societies or civic groups

Conservation Planning	Photography	Writing
Special Tours/Fairs	Outdoor Classrooms	Nature Areas
Public Speaking		

In the Office – working with staff to help the office run smoothly

Data Entry	Map Interpretation	Typing
Telephoning	Editing	Reception
Filing	Drafting	

In Schools – working with local students

In classrooms	At camps	Outdoor classrooms
Recycling	Ag issues	Art and writing



SOME IMPORTANT NOTES:

- An Earth Team volunteer must be at least 14 years old
- Volunteers may work full-time, part-time, in the office or in the field
- Volunteers must have a position description and timesheet
- Local NRCS staff have applications and timesheets for the program. NOTE: NRCS no longer needs a social security number for volunteers, even though it is still on the application.
- Volunteers can receive course credit for their time, if NRCS and the school agree
- Volunteers are covered for Workers Compensation and Tort Claims only when they are working within their job description and during the hours reported on the time sheet
- Groups and individuals can volunteer
- Volunteers can perform almost every task that a full-time NRCS employee does. NOTE: This is not to say that a volunteer could replace your District Conservationist, but merely to point out that volunteers are allowed to help in all aspects of NRCS work
- Volunteerism can be a short- or long-term assignment
- It is important to be flexible with your volunteers so that you and the volunteer both benefit from the program
- The Earth Team provides an opportunity for people with a variety of skills and talents to use their time and effort to improve and protect the natural resources of Kentucky
- Volunteering for this program may help:
 - Young people who need professional work experience to gain that experience while “trying on” this type of work
 - Retired people who want to help spread the word about conservation while not being tied down to an 8-5 job
 - Everyone in between!

