

Project WET USA
2016 Coordinator Conference and Training

Information Packet

Greenville, South Carolina
August 8, 2016-August 12, 2016



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1. Important Dates

July 1st – Deadline for cancellation with full refund

July 7th – Registration deadline

July 8th – Hotel registration cut-off date

2. Airport arrival/transportation

Thanks to Project WET South Carolina (Greenville Soil and Water Conservation District) there will be a 6-passenger Suburban and a few personal vehicles for transport between Greenville-Spartanburg Airport (GSP) and the Aloft Hotel. Taxis and ride-sharing services such as Uber are also readily available from the airport upon arrival.



Picture of the Greenville Soil and Water Conservation District Shuttle

The Aloft Hotel is located 20 minutes from GSP. If you would like to reserve space on a shuttle, please email Lynn Pilewski at lpilewski@greenvillecounty.org with the following information: Your name, airline, flight numbers, arrival/departure times, and cell phone number.

Aloft Hotel address:

5 N Laurens St, Greenville, SC 29601

Phone: (864) 297-6100

www.aloftgreenvilledowntown.com

3. Conference Culture

Greenville, South Carolina Weather: What to wear

August in Greenville is hot with temperatures in the 80s and 90s (F), with high humidity. Nights have lows of 70 degrees, still with high humidity.

Conference attire is [casual](#), except for the opening and closing dinners which are [dressy casual](#). The opening dinner will be Monday night at the Commerce Club; the closing dinner will be Thursday night at the Aloft Hotel.



Flip-flops and shorts are acceptable as casual attire, but if you plan to attend any field experiences, please bring proper walking shoes. Rain is always possible, so rain coats and/or umbrellas are advisable. You may also want to bring a swimsuit for the pool.

Gathering of the Waters

The Gathering of the Waters is a tradition at Project WET USA conferences. Each person shares an experience or memory of water from their home or favorite water place and pours a small amount of water from this place (literally or symbolically) into a collective pitcher. A small amount of water from the pitcher from the previous years' conference, containing water added since the year 2000, is also added. This unites all participants from conferences past and present. Please bring water (an ounce or two in a travel size container) from your favorite water place, your home or local tap water as a symbol of your water place.



Hospitality Room

Project WET USA conference includes a “hospitality room” where coordinators can gather to chat, snack and drink in our own private hotel suite. Some snacks will be provided but please BYOB and any snacks you may want to share. The location of the room will be announced upon arrival at the conference.

4. New Coordinator Training

Offered by Project WET and the Instruction and Training WETteam, the New Coordinator Training offers important details about being part of the Project WET USA Network and answers any questions coordinators may have about managing their own networks. The Training follows the hands-on methods and interactive format of workshops that Project WET is known for. You do not have to be new to attend—seasoned coordinators are welcome too! Before attending the training please watch the New Coordinator webinar and review the coordinator and facilitator handbooks located on www.ProjectWETUSA.org.



5. Conference Agenda

Project WET USA Conference and Training Agenda

	Sunday August 7	Monday August 8	Tuesday August 9	Wednesday August 10	Thursday August 11	Friday August 12
breakfast (7am-7:45am)	on your own	on your own	included	included	included	included
7am - 9am				(Silent Auction opens at breakfast)	Optional: Field Experience to Lake Conestee	
Morning (9:30-12pm)	Closed Session: Project WET Coordinator Council Meeting pm-7 pm Tactic Boardroom	Closed Session: New Coordinator Training 9am-4pm	Closed Session: USA Coordinators Business Meeting 8am-1pm	Closed Session: USA Coordinators Business Meeting 8am-12pm	Content Session 2: Advanced Training Location TBD	Optional: Field Experiences (bike tour, kayaking, hiking)
lunch (12pm-1pm)	on your own	on your own	lunch included (working lunch during USA business meeting)	included Speaker: Mayor Knox White	on your own	on your own
Afternoon (1pm-4:30pm)	Closed Session: Project WET Coordinator Council Meeting	Closed Session: New Coordinator Training 9am-4pm	Optional Field Experience: Sustainability Tour to Asheville	Content Session 1: Conference Opening Meeting Rooms A/B	Content Sessions 3 Meeting Rooms A/B (Silent Auction closes before dinner)	Optional: Field Experiences
dinner (6pm)	on your own	included Commerce Club	included in tour (if not on tour then dinner on your own)	on your own	included (Conference Closing) Location TBD	on your own
Evening		Closed Dinner Session: Conference Opening for USA Coordinators 6pm-7:30pm	Free Night!	Fun Night! 6pm-8pm Silk dyeing @ SIP Rooftop	Conference Closing 6pm-7:30pm	
Color Key:	included meals	closed sessions for USA Coordinators only	open sessions for all conference attendees	Field Experiences	on your own	

6. Project WET USA Business Meeting Agenda-

USA Business Meeting Agenda

	Sunday August 7	Monday August 8	Tuesday August 9	Wednesday August 10
breakfast (7am-7:45am)	on your own	on your own	included	included (Silent Auction opens at breakfast)
Morning	Closed Session: Project WET Coordinator Council Meeting (Council members only)	9am-4pm Closed Session: New Coordinator Training (Coordinators Only)	8am-1pm Closed Session: USA Coordinators Business Meeting	8am-12pm Closed Session: USA Coordinators Business Meeting
			Announcements; Project WET USA Updates	Online Training Wrap Up and Next Steps <i>Julia Beck</i>
			What's New at Project WET Foundation? <i>Dennis Nelson</i>	ProjectWETUSA.org <i>Julia Beck</i>
			Regional Meetings and Reports	New issues in Project WET USA <i>Rachel Olsen</i>
			WETteams Overview and Reports	WETteam Group Planning
lunch (12pm-1pm)	on your own	on your own	lunch included (working lunch) Guide 2.0 Online Training <i>Julia Beck</i>	included
Afternoon (1pm-4:00pm)	Closed Session: Project WET Coordinator Council Meeting	Closed Session: New Coordinator Training	Optional Field Experience: Sustainability Tour to Asheville	Content Session 1: Conference Opening Meeting Rooms A/B
dinner (6pm)	on your own	included Commerce Club	included in tour (if not on tour then dinner on your own)	on your own
Evening		6pm-7:30pm Conference Opening for USA Coordinators	Free Night!	Fun Night! pm-8 pm Silk dyeing @ SIP Rooftop
on your own	included meals	closed sessions for Coordinators only	open sessions for all conference attendees	Field Experiences

7. Content Sessions-

General Sessions Agenda

breakfast (7am-7:45am)	Wednesday August 10	Thursday August 11	Friday August 12
	Included	Included	Included
Morning	Closed Session: USA Coordinators Business Meeting (<i>Silent Auction opens at breakfast</i>)	Optional: Field Experience to Lake Conestee	Optional: Field Experiences (bike tour, kayaking, hiking)
		Content Session 2: Advanced Training: Early Childhood Education Meeting Rooms A/B Moderator: <i>Jo Adang</i>	
		9:30-10:30 Differences in Early Childhood Education; <i>David Wojnowski</i> Moderator: <i>Jo Adang</i>	
		10:30-10:50 Development of the Project WET ECE Guide; <i>Megan Regnerus</i>	
		10:50-11:30 Project WET ECE Activity; <i>Sue Quincy</i>	
		11:30-12:00 Assessing Project WET's ECE Activities; <i>Group discussions</i>	
lunch (12pm-1pm)	Included Speaker: <i>Mayor Knox White</i>	12:00-1:30pm on your own	on your own
Afternoon (1pm-4:00pm)	Content Session 1: Conference Opening Meeting Rooms A/B Moderator: <i>Janine Kohn</i>	Content Sessions 3: Ground Water Meeting Rooms A/B Moderator: <i>Joni Scharfenberg</i> (<i>Silent Auction closes before dinner</i>)	Optional: Field Experiences
	1:00-1:45 HWHP and Ohio Volunteer Level 1 Qualified Data Collection <i>Dennis Clement</i>	1:30-2:00 Rainfall Simulator <i>South Carolina DNR</i>	
	1:45-2:30 NGSS and Project WET Guide 2.0	2:00-2:30 Grounding Water: An Exploration of the Unseen World Beneath Our Feet <i>Kerry Schwartz</i>	
	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>	
	2:45-3:30 Water We Singing About? Using songs with Project WET 2.0 <i>Kevin Kopp</i>	2:45-3:45 Advanced Training: Ground Water; <i>I&T team</i>	
dinner (6pm)	on your own	Included (Conference Closing) Aloft Hotel	on your own
Evening	6pm-8pm Fun Night! Rooftop Bar	6pm-7:30pm Conference Closing	

Included meals
closed sessions for USA Coordinators only
open sessions for all conference attendees
Field Experiences
On your own

8. Advanced Training Topics

This year's conference will feature two advanced training sessions: one on early childhood education and the new Project WET Early Childhood Educators Guide and the second on the topics of ground water, soil and rainfall. See the Content Sessions Agenda for more details on presentations.

9. Field Experiences

Tuesday, August 9th: Sustainability Tour to Asheville, North Carolina (optional)

Learn about sustainability practices in action as we visit the New Belgium and Sierra Nevada breweries. Each of these breweries boasts water conservation and sustainability practices. Bring money if you wish to purchase beer to drink. Dinner will be at the New Belgium Brewing Company and is sponsored by [Spartanburg Water Quality Partners](#).



Thursday, August 11th: [Lake Conestee](#) (optional)

Take a nature walk and enjoy some birding at [Lake Conestee Nature Park](#). Lake Conestee consists of approximately 400 acres of beautiful natural habitat on the Reedy River just 6 miles south of downtown Greenville. The park contains both hardwood and evergreen forest, extensive wetlands, three miles of the Reedy River and a rich diversity of wildlife habitat. Deer, raccoon, beaver, fox, river otter and various other small mammals inhabit the park, along with numerous species of reptiles and amphibians. More than 200 bird species have been reported by the Greenville County Bird Club. The park has been designated as an Important Bird Area of Global Significance by the National Audubon Society.



Friday, August 12th: Bike tour, kayaking, hiking (optional)

Project WET South Carolina will compile a list of fun activities to do in the area if you want to stick around and play!



10. Silent Auction

Please bring something to contribute (and your money to bid in the auction!) for the Project WET USA Silent Auction. Proceeds go to providing scholarships for the 2017 Project WET USA Conference—it could be YOU needing a scholarship in 2017! Ideally, we are looking for water and other environmental education-related items (fun and functional). Think about bringing a basket representing the best of your state. Let's make this the best silent auction ever! You can use check, cash or credit card to pay for your items.

11. Free Night

Tuesday night is designated as a “free night” with no formal agenda set. Explore Greenville with fellow coordinators or enjoy some down time at the hotel. You will receive a list of some restaurants and activities to do that evening in your welcome packet. For those arriving early or staying on Friday, a list of activities around Greenville is posted on the conference website.



12. Fun Night

During its prime manufacturing days, Greenville was known as the “textile capital of the world.” They say you could tell what color cloth was being made based on the color of the river each day! Luckily, those days are long behind us, and the rivers are recovering.



Fun night will feature local Greenville artist Jaidra, who will lead the group in designing and painting unique silk rounds that pay tribute to the history of Greenville and let you create a beautiful piece of art to take home with you. We will do this at the SIP Rooftop, which is on the same plaza as Aloft Hotel. We will have a big table for everyone to sit at. You will be able to order small plates, beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages. This meal is pay on your own.

If you would like a heartier dinner, you may want to plan eating at the hotel or another place close by before we go to the rooftop.