



Wet and Wild in the Summer!

When it's hot in the summer, getting wet is a fun way to cool off. Many of us go to lakes, streams, or rivers to swim, raft, canoe, kayak, or boat.

Water Safety

When swimming or boating in refreshing water, you can't always see the bottom of the lake, so you don't always know the depth of the water. Remember to be careful and always swim with an adult close by.



Although the fish swimming around won't hurt you, some rivers and lakes may hide jagged or slippery rocks, or even trash. Wear something to protect your feet. Watch out for weeds or grass, which can trap even a good swimmer. If you panic and try to yank yourself free, you may get even more tangled. Just relax and slowly pull your arms and legs free, or call for an adult's help.

When on a boat, always wear your PFD - Personal Flotation Device, or life jacket. Even if you are a good swimmer, something could cause the boat to tip over and put you in the water.



Some other safety tips:

- Never swim alone or after dark.
- Get out of the water when there is lightning or thunder.
- Always be cautious of fast-moving water -- strong strong currents can move cars, boulders, and trees, especially in a flood situation.

Remember, Turn Around, Don't Drown

Lake Water Quality

Sometimes a lake looks like pea soup and is filled with lake plants and weeds. It probably means the lake has too much of the wrong type of algae. Algae are simple plants that are needed in a lake as food for fish and other creatures in the lake. Lake weeds provide cover, habitat and sometimes food for fish, but

they also can get caught on swimmer's legs and boat propellers.

Too much algae and lake weeds are caused by too much fertilizer in a lake -- causing a big problem for fish. When the plants and algae die they sink to the bottom of the lake and decompose. This uses up oxygen. Fish need oxygen to breathe so if the oxygen gets too low for the fish, they die too.

Left over food if thrown into the lake can act as fertilizer for the weeds and algae in the rivers and lakes. Your trash and waste can be harmful to the fish and other wildlife that live in the water.

Sometimes detergents get into creeks or lakes and this can cause problems. Most detergents can cause more of the algae we don't like and can destroy the surface habitat of insects.

What you can do to help

- *Don't Splash Your Trash* - Take all of your trash and waste with you when you leave a lake, pond or river. Recycle your cans and bottles when you get home.
- Choose environmentally-friendly products and detergents, especially if you wash the family car in the driveway.

Summer Air...

On very hot days, the main air pollution problem is ground-level ozone, a harmful pollutant to breathe. Ozone is formed by a photochemical reaction: Pollutants emitted by gasoline-powered activities (driving, refueling the car, mowing the lawn, etc.) and industrial sources react chemically in the presence of sunlight to form ozone. Ozone is a key ingredient in *smog*. Tips to help reduce ozone pollution, are inside this newsletter in the **Go Green Corner**, or you can visit www.spokanecleanair.org.

Community Calendar

Want to learn more about the environment and what you can do to help protect it? Attend one (or all) of these community events - where there will be a lot of hands-on activities for you to look, feel and learn!

August

8 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Kids Day @ Gondola Meadows, Riverfront Park Free
Find the EnviroKids Cabana for special activities.

September

11-20 10 a.m - 10 p.m. Interstate Fair @ Spokane Fair & Expo Center Admission
Find the "Go Green" space to learn more about the Environment.

19 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sustainable September @ MOBIUS, River Park Square Admission

26 8:30 a.m.- 10 a.m. ValleyFest @ Mirabeau Park, Spokane Valley Free

October

20 5 p.m. Deadline - America Recycles Day Poster Contest Free
Get complete rules and signature form at:
www.solidwaste.org or call the Recycling Hotline - 625-6800.

Go Green Corner

Check out this challenge corner each month for things to do to help protect the earth!



- Keep your eyes open and report any drastic increases in algae or lake weeds in a lake near you. 329-3400
- Make it a habit to carry a trash/recycling bag with you when you go out to a lake or stream.
- When going somewhere close to home, try to walk, ride your bike or take the bus instead of having your parents drive you.
- If you have to go by car, suggest to your parents to turn off the car engine when letting you out or waiting for you -- join the "No-Idle Zone."
- Remind parents to fill-up car's gas tank in the evening so the gasoline vapors don't "bake" in the sun all day.

Experiment -- Sink or Swim?

Find out how detergent affects water?

Materials

- a clean bowl (free of detergent)
- paper clip
- fork or tweezers
- liquid dish detergent

Procedure

- Fill the bowl with water.
- Put a paper clip or needle on the fork, or hold it with the tweezers. Gently place the paper clip or needle on the surface of the water. Be patient and careful. You will be able to get the clip to sit on top of the water! Can you see the surface tension bend under the paper clip?
- Add two drops of detergent to the water near (not on top of) the paper clip. What happens?

How it Works - The paper clip was resting on top of the surface tension. This "skin" supported the clip and kept it from sinking. When you added detergent, the soap weakened the attraction the water molecules had for each other. This caused the surface tension skin to disappear. Then the paper clip sank.

When detergents get into creeks or lakes they can destroy the surface habitat making it hard for water striders and other insects to walk on water without sinking, taking away food for fish.

Fun for a HOT day!

Water balloon relay:

Two or more teams line up. Each person in turn picks up a water balloon, runs to the finish line, sits on the water balloon and pops it, then runs back to the starting line and the next person goes. If the water balloon pops before reaching the finish line runner must go back and get another. First team done wins!

Ice cube melt relay:

First person holds and rubs an ice cube until hands get too cold. Then pass it to the next person, and so on, until the ice cube melts. Team with first ice cube to melt, wins!



Plunge into this Watery Word Search

I	G	R	P	H	L	S	Y	L	H	I	A
J	N	S	E	I	P	Q	T	N	A	L	J
A	I	R	F	Z	R	U	E	R	G	K	Z
C	N	E	S	S	I	G	Y	A	E	K	E
K	T	V	H	D	Y	L	E	Q	S	A	N
E	H	I	T	X	E	B	I	L	S	I	M
T	G	R	O	T	H	E	C	T	W	T	J
S	I	S	A	P	W	H	W	J	R	S	W
W	L	O	F	O	O	D	T	A	X	E	B
I	B	Z	B	S	A	F	E	T	Y	X	F
M	Z	X	U	P	H	S	A	R	T	I	M
G	T	R	N	H	M	Z	H	Z	N	R	Y

Word Bank:

ALGAE
BOAT
FERTILIZER
FOOD
JACKET
LAKE
LIFE
LIGHTNING
OXYGEN
RIVER
SAFETY
STREAM
SWIM
TRASH
WEEDS



EnviroKids' Club

EnviroKids' Club,
c/o National Weather Service
2601 N. Rambo Rd.
Spokane, WA 99224

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Return Service Requested

EnviroKids... caring for the Earth.

EnviroKids' Club is a way for you to team up with other kids in Spokane County -- exploring all aspects of the environment: air, water, weather, garbage & recycling, plants & animals, and you & your environment.

EnviroKids' Club members will receive an activity in the mail four times a year. Complete the activity, and return it to the Club Headquarters (address and form below) and you will earn points towards a special prize. Information about the new point system and the prizes will be sent soon. The EnviroKids' Club is for children in grades K-6, who live in Spokane County.

MAIL COMPLETED ACTIVITY BY **SEPTEMBER 30, 2009** TO: EnviroKids' Club, c/o National Weather Service,
2601 N. Rambo Rd, Spokane, WA 99224

Name: _____ Age: _____ School: _____

Home Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

My child has permission to participate in EnviroKids' Club activities and to have name/picture used in ads/website.

Parent Signature and Date

EnviroKids' Club Partners: National Weather Service, Spokane Aquifer Joint Board, Spokane County Water Resources, Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency, Spokane Regional Solid Waste System, WA Department of Ecology, and West Valley Outdoor Learning Center.

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