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Ohio EPA Awards Environmental Education Mini Grant to Carroll Soil and Water Conservation District

The Carroll Soil and Water Conservation District (Carroll SWCD) has received a \$3,039 Ohio EPA environmental education mini grant to train volunteers to monitor water quality in the Cold Spring-Indian Fork watershed, part of the Upper Muskingum watershed. The conservation district was one of 10 Ohio organizations to be awarded Ohio EPA environmental education mini grants totaling \$42,813.

Carroll SWCD will work with up to 12 Carroll County volunteers – including a teacher from Carrollton High School’s Future Farmers of America – to conduct quarterly monitoring in area streams and report the results to Ohio EPA and local communities. The data will be used to assess watershed health and educate residents, students and future farmers about the steps they can take to improve water quality. Carroll SWCD hopes to eventually expand the monitoring program to a large portion of the county.

The Ohio Environmental Education Fund gives out approximately \$1 million each year for environmental education projects targeting kindergarten through university students, the general public and the regulated community. General grants are given for projects lasting up to 30 months and costing up to \$50,000.

Mini grants are available for projects lasting up to 12 months and costing between \$500 and \$5,000. Proposals for classroom projects, conference speakers and other activities that are eligible under the general grant program are eligible under the mini grant program, but the application process is streamlined. Ohio EPA's Office of Environmental Education reserves up to \$50,000 each grant round to fund projects submitted under this program. Just like the general grant program, there are two mini grant rounds each year, with the next application deadline on Jan. 15, 2012. An electronic letter of intent to apply is due by Jan. 8, 2012.

For more information, contact Ohio EPA's Office of Environmental Education at (614) 644-2873. Staff is available to assist potential grant applicants who contact the office before the submission deadline. Information also is available [online](#).

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