

Earth Team Volunteer Program



photos: NRCS Oklahoma

Earth Team Volunteers

Have you ever wondered how you could help with conservation efforts for a better environment? Then this is the place to get involved.

We need your help in reducing soil erosion, conserving our water and improving its quality, and developing pride in our country's natural resource heritage. Your commitment to the Earth Team will help ensure that generations to come will enjoy America's bounty.

Earth Team, the volunteer arm of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, is now recruiting volunteers all over Oklahoma. Make a difference in your community – become an Earth Team Volunteer.

Requirements To Become An Earth Team Volunteer

- ☑ Anyone 14 years of age or older and is interested in conserving our precious natural resources can join the Earth Team
- ☑ You can work full time or part-time, indoors or outdoors
- ☑ You can volunteer as an individual or as a group
- ☑ All talents needed!

Benefits of becoming an Earth Team Volunteer

- ☑ You can work with professionals to make a positive difference in your community
- ☑ Utilize your talents and interests
- ☑ Schools and community groups benefit from the conservation tours and exhibits that volunteers can organize
- ☑ Assist in support services such as computer data entry, typing, filing, computer programming, and conservation information
- ☑ Take photographs, write articles, speak to community groups, produce artwork and publications
- ☑ Students can earn community service hours to count towards college admission
- ☑ Assist in conservation education programs, outdoor classroom development, and presentations to students
- ☑ Pick up valuable skills that can be listed on your resume
- ☑ Gain professional work experience or academic credit
- ☑ Help your environment while you have Fun!

Value of Volunteers...Time and Return on Investment

Oklahoma Earth Team volunteers value on the hours worked for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service is \$208,405, with dollars invested at \$2,500, and with a return on the investment being \$83 to every \$1 spent! This shows how critical these volunteers are to putting conservation on the ground. It is very apparent that volunteers are serving a vital role to the landscape and the environment.

Success Stories

Brie Webber demonstrates her desire to improve the environment by participating as a Natural Resources



Conservation Service Earth Team Volunteer. Since Brie's vision for protecting and conserving Oklahoma's natural resources is the same as Natural Resources Conservation Service, it is no wonder that this graduate student clocked over 240 hours as a Earth Team Volunteer. Brie joined forces with the water resource staff to conduct

water quality studies and inventories as part of the nation's first rehabilitation projects. Volunteers like Brie make significant contributions in our goal to provide technical assistance to our landowners regarding conservation of our natural resources. Brie received the "Outstanding Volunteer Service Award" from the Soil and Water Conservation Society, recognizing her as a volunteer who made significant contributions toward conservation of natural resources in Oklahoma.

Earth Team Volunteers, Jerry Sanders, Jimmy Smith, and Lynn Blacketter worked

with Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Great Plains Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) to accomplish the development of a three mile trail system at the North Fork of Red River Conservation District outdoor classroom, Beckham County, Oklahoma. This trail system allows local schools and the general public to utilize a 100 acre upland flood control site as an outdoors, environmental education learning center. More than 600 students attend various outdoor classroom activities during the school year. Teachers benefit by taking their classroom to the actual environment for hands-on learning. This new facility is unique to western Oklahoma and has extensive plans for future environmental education development. Environmental education affords the district endless opportunities to utilize volunteers to teach youth about conservation and our environment.



How Do I Get Involved?

Contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service Field Office, check out our website at www.ok.usda.gov and click on Earth Team, or call our toll free number at 1-888-LANDCARE. There is always a need for YOU!

