



# 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!

