

Future Water Leaders

A School Counselor's Guide to Great Water Careers



Introduction

Future Water Leaders

Water utilities are essential to the health of every person and the success of every business in our communities. Every community needs dedicated and capable water professionals that make sure the water we drink is safe and reliable, and that our wastewater is removed and treated before it is returned to the environment.

Future Water Leaders aims to help your community build the water workforce needed for today and the future. Water careers are important, meaningful, well-paying, recession-proof, and located in the smallest towns to the largest cities. Students with a high school diploma can enter a career in drinking water, wastewater, or water reclamation. Students can also graduate college with a 2-year, 4-year or graduate degree program and find jobs that match their education level.

The resources in this guide will help you:

- identify students who might have interest in a career in the water industry
- provide students with resources about water careers
- build curriculum, lessons, or events that introduce students to water professionals and careers

Water Career Profiles

From engineers to financial specialists, biologists and chemists, and water operators and lab technicians, there are many paths to a career in the water industry. Water utilities are essential to healthy communities. Utility staff ensure that we have clean, safe, reliable drinking water everyday.

Use these profiles to share about water career opportunities with your students. Email them, print them, hand them out, post them on a bulletin board or social media, share them far and wide!

- [Water Operator Profile](#)
- [Wastewater Operator Profile](#)
- [Water/Wastewater Lab Technician Profile](#)
- [Water/Wastewater Systems Engineer Profile](#)

A few additional websites with great water career information are:

- [Work for Water](#)
- [American Water Works Association Career Center](#)
- [Water Environment Federation Career Page](#)
- [AWWA Scholarship Program](#)
- [WEF Stockholm Junior Water Prize](#)

Guest Speakers and Field Trips

A fun and inspiring way to get students interested in a career is to have someone who does that job, and loves it, come speak to them. Reach out to your local water utility and invite them to come to your school to talk about their careers. Or, set up a field trip to the water utility to see the water professionals in action!

Ask the water professionals to share about:

- How did they get into their career? What was their career path?
- What do they enjoy about their career?
- What do they find meaningful about their work?
- What parts of their job are challenging?
- How could a student find a job at a water utility?

Presentation

[Water Workshop PowerPoint](#) *with script in notes*

Use this presentation template to introduce students to the role and importance of water utilities in your community and the careers that support the meaningful work. Teachers, utility professionals, or both can conduct this 1-1.5 hour session. Feel free to adapt the presentation to fit your needs.

Promotional Resources

We want to make it easy for you to plan a water career exploration event. Here are some promotional materials you can use to help share the event with your students:

- [Event Poster Template](#)
- [Social Media Graphic Template 1](#)
- [Social Media Graphic Template 2](#)
- [Short Water Video](#)
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Lesson Plans for Water Career Exploration

Water Pollution From Inside the House

Have students research issues related to prescription drugs in wastewater. How are antibiotics, painkillers, endocrine disrupters, etc. impacting wildlife, fish and human water supplies? Have students develop a plan to reduce this type of pollution.

Fun Websites to Explore the Water Treatment Process

- [Audio Blog](#) – What Happens to “Number 2” in the Second City
- [Interactive Online Graphics](#) for “Where Does Your Poop Go”

