

Classroom Programs at AWRI

GVSU Lake Michigan Center
GVSU Annis Water Resources Institute
Muskegon, Michigan



The Annis Water Resources Institute (AWRI) offers free educational opportunities for K-12 classes in the Annis Educational Foundation classroom at the GVSU Lake Michigan Center in Muskegon. Through the support of the R.B. Annis Educational Foundation, AWRI offers multimedia classroom experiences at the Center where students can learn about their water environment. Experienced instructors lead students through a variety of activities that address Michigan education standards. Programs are generally 1 to 2 hours long and are can be customized for all grades.

Classroom experiences can be in addition to cruises onboard our research and education vessels or as stand-alone events. Activities are based on programs such as Project WET (Water Education for Teachers), Michigan Environmental Education Curriculum Support (MEECS), Healthy Water Healthy People, and the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) program.

Special programs including educator workshops and tours for adult groups are available upon request. Check with AWRI about GLOBE, Michigan Environmental Education Curriculum Support (MEECS), Earth Partnership for Schools, Healthy Water Healthy People, Project Learning Tree, and Project WET workshops for educators.

Sample topics for classroom programs include:

Pre-Cruise Orientation/ Post-Cruise Wrap Up

Classes planning a trip aboard the GVSU research and education vessels are introduced to concepts that are part of the cruise. Hypotheses that can be tested on the cruise are explored as well as general concepts about water quality and watersheds. After a cruise, students can graph and analyze water quality data as well as expand upon ideas from the cruise. This module can be one or two hours (either before or after a cruise) and is designed for students using the vessels.

Be an Aquatic Scientist for a Day

This can include a tour of the Lake Michigan Center and hands-on science activities in the R.B. Annis Educational Foundation Classroom. Students explore the alien species that have invaded the Great Lakes and learn about life cycles. Additionally, food chains and food webs are explored. Other topics include what AWRI scientists study such as fish in Muskegon Lake.

The Water Cycle and Watersheds

With attention to both natural and social science, students engage in activities such as the *Incredible Journey* (a water cycle game) from Project WET. Making a model watershed and learning about their own watershed are parts of this module. Students use clues from environmental measurements to guess locations in a watershed from which samples were taken.

Air Quality and Climate Change

How does a burning candle illustrate air pollution? What is ozone? What is the air quality index? What is global climate change? These are a few of the questions explored in this session that is based on the Michigan Environmental Education Curriculum Support (MEECS) Air Quality Unit.

Ecosystems

Discover Michigan's ecosystems through hands-on activities from the Michigan Environmental Education Curriculum Support (MEECS) Ecosystem & Biodiversity Unit.

GLOBE Training

If you are a GLOBE school, come to the LMC to use our GLOBE equipment to learn new protocols or practice protocols. We can come to your school to help you with GLOBE protocols.

Contact Christina Catanese at (616) 331-3048 or catanesc@gvsu.edu or visit www.gvsu.edu/wri/education for more information about the AWRI outreach and education programs.