

# Join the Flow

Come together with other Coloradans for a year-long celebration of our water.



**WATER22**  
WATER22.ORG  
#Water22

**Youth  
Engagement**

## WHAT IS WATER '22?

Water '22 is a year-long celebration of Colorado's water, dedicated to the idea that "It all starts here." Colorado is a headwaters state, sometimes referred to as the "Mother of Rivers." Snowmelt from our Rocky Mountain peaks reaches 18 other states and Mexico, supporting wildlife, communities, and agriculture. The clean water flowing through our streams, farms, and communities keeps us healthy, sustains the economy and local food production, helps produce energy, and provides essential habitat for fish and wildlife. And, whether frozen as snow and ice, running in rivers, or pooled in lakes and reservoirs, it provides an abundance of water-based recreation and enjoyment.

Why celebrate Water '22? Unfortunately, Colorado, and much of the West, has been battling historic drought conditions that threaten the sustainability of one of our state's most important natural resources. These drought conditions, compounded by population growth and urbanization, impact the amount of water flowing in streams, down rivers, and available in underground aquifers where water is used faster than it can be replenished. Water '22 calls upon Coloradans of every age, background, and demographic to collectively come together to make sure our water meets the needs of today and for future generations.

## WHY IS WATER AWARENESS WEEK IMPORTANT?

Young people are the future of Colorado! It is critical we include young people in this statewide public awareness campaign because they are Colorado's future water leaders, and their voices matter. We created Water Awareness Week to encourage young people to celebrate water while cultivating awareness and enthusiasm for water issues.

We are also happy to announce the Statewide Water Awareness Week takes place April 18-22 this year, encompassing Earth Day. What better way to celebrate Earth Week than talking about a resource that makes up 71% of Earth's surface yet is precious enough that only .003% is potable (drinkable) for us?

## WHAT TO EXPECT WITH WATER AWARENESS WEEK!

1. An adaptable toolkit including:
  - Themed dress-up days
  - Engaging pre-written bell-ringer questions that tie the dress-up day to water and are easy to integrate into the classroom
  - Young adult and children's recommended booklists
  - Additional virtual educational resource options
  - Exciting, age-appropriate action items for students to do at home or in school
  - Options for a classroom (or school-wide) competition for a chance to win exciting prizes
2. Support from Water Education Colorado and other Water '22 partners.
3. A splashing good time!

Are you interested in bringing Water '22 to your classroom? Check out [water22.org/youth-engagement](https://water22.org/youth-engagement) to learn more!

## **NEED HELP CONNECTING TO COLORADO ACADEMIC STANDARDS?**

As you plan lessons and activities for Water Awareness Week, if you need help documenting connections between water concepts and Colorado Academic Standards for Science and Social Studies, check out the resources here: <https://www.cowateredplan.org/connect-to-colorado-academic-standards.html>

Looking for a way to combine this event with your standards aligned planning and give your students a chance to show off their creative side? Consider using the Water '22 Student Showcase as a summative assessment for your students at the end of Water Awareness Week.