Eco Expo Project Guidelines

A Forsyth Creek Week Event

What is it?

The Eco Expo is a student-centered learning event hosted by Piedmont Environmental Alliance and the City of Winston-Salem Stormwater Division for Forsyth Creek Week. This event combines a traditional science and art fair with guided, hands-on learning experiences. All participants will participate in rotating, expert-led investigation stations focused on earth science topics. Additionally, students are invited to create and display their own water-related science and art projects in the exhibition hall.

This event is designed especially for homeschool students, private schools, and charter/magnet schools and emphasizes curiosity, communication, and real-world connections to local creeks and watersheds.

Event Details

Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Time: 10am-2pm (setup opens at 9:30 for students with projects)

Location: Miller Park Community Center and Trails

Cost: Free

Registration Deadline: Sunday, March 15, 2026

Space is limited. Advance registration is required.

Who can participate?

- Students grades K-8
- Students may participate as individuals, in small groups, or with their families

How to participate

To exhibit a project:

1. Register in advance using the registration form here.
2. Create a project within theme guidelines found on **page 3** of this document

3. Bring your completed project on the event day

To attend without exhibiting:

- Families and groups are encouraged to attend and participate in guided learning stations and view the student exhibitions
- Complete registration to attend the event due to space limits

How the fair is structured

Student Exhibitions (Science & Art Fair)

Students create and display a project related to water, creeks, or watersheds. During the fair, students stand with their projects and explain their work to visitors.

Projects may include:

- Scientific investigations and experiments
- Art projects or poetry connected to a water-related concept

Safety & ethics rules

- No experimentation on live animals or people.
    - Projects may not involve testing, experimenting on, or harm to live animals or humans.
- Follow basic safety practices.
    - Wear personal protective equipment such as gloves and goggles when working with potentially hazardous materials. Know who to call in case of emergency.

What is provided for participants?

- Tables and space for student projects
- Guided earth science stations
- Participation certificates

What participants provide

- A completed student project (if exhibiting)
- Any display materials needed for the project (note – electricity connections are not available in the exhibition hall for the event due to limited setup time)

Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact **courtney@peanc.org.**

Project Guidelines

Students choosing to enter a project to the Fair must choose one theme pathway and create a project based on that topic.

Theme pathways (choose one):

1. Water quality & pollution
2. Cultural and artistic connections to water
3. Freshwater plants and animals found in North Carolina
4. Stormwater and flooding
5. Human impacts and solutions
6. Watersheds

Science experiment projects

A science experiment tests a question by changing something and observing what happens.

Your experiment should show the following elements:

1. Your question
    a. What are you trying to find out?
2. Your hypothesis
    a. A hypothesis is an educated guess about what you think will happen and why.
3. Your procedure
    a. Explain the steps you followed to test your hypothesis.
4. Your materials
    a. List the items you used.
5. Your results
    a. Show what happened using words, numbers, charts, or pictures.
6. Your conclusion
    a. Explain what you learned.
        i. Was your hypothesis supported or not supported?
        ii. Why do you think your results turned out the way they did?
        iii. What would you change if you did this experiment again?

Expectations by age

- Grades K-4: Simple explanations, drawings, or basic charts.
- Grades 5-8: Include data tables or graphs and explain results in greater detail.

Scientific investigation projects

A scientific investigation explores a topic through research, observation, data collection, mapping, or modeling. You do not need to test variables or make a hypothesis.

Your investigation should show the following elements:

1. Your question or topic
2. Background information
3. How you investigated
4. Your findings
5. What you learned
6. Real-world connection
7. Sources (if used)

Expectations by age

- Grades K-4: Focus on clear pictures, observations, and simple explanations.
- Grades 5-8: Include sources when possible and explain possible patterns you noticed.

Art projects

Art projects are welcome and encouraged! Art projects should communicate a water-related science or environmental idea.

Your art project should include:

1. Your artwork
    a. Any medium is acceptable. Drawings, paintings, sculptures, collage, model, photography, mixed media, etc.
2. Artist statement
    a. Give a two to six sentence explanation that answers:
        i. What is your artwork about? Which theme pathway did you choose?
        ii. Why is this topic important?

Displaying your project

- Experiments and investigations: It is recommended to use a tri-fold poster board so that your project can sit on a table and be visible to people walking by. Glue, tape, or staple your scientific process to the board and add decorations.
- You may bring visual aids, artifacts from your experiment, or other decorations. Note that no electricity is provided.

- Things your display may not include: live animals, flames, flammable or otherwise dangerous chemicals, electricity passing through uninsulated wire, uncontained messes, and expensive non-replaceable personal property.
- You can have water in your exhibit, but your project display should not rely on a water hookup like a sink, hose, or continuous water flow.