

Inaugural Water 101 Academy 2019

Program Overview:

The Santa Clara Valley Water District is launching a brand new Water 101 Academy, a water ambassador program that is open to all community members in Santa Clara County who want to gain an understanding of local water issues and learn about current or future water projects occurring in their local communities. Through this new program, the water district hopes to build and sustain a diverse network of influencers who are willing to serve as community water ambassadors on local water issues and refer others to future academy sessions.

Objective:

Educate, inspire, engage, and empower a diverse group of community members to be water champions on issues related to safe, clean water and promote environmental stewardship within their own respective neighborhoods and local communities.

Program Goals:

1. **Education and knowledge sharing:** Improve communities' understanding of the complex water issues facing Silicon Valley and the district's mission, role and functions, while learning about the communities' needs and issues. Water ambassadors will serve as neighborhood liaisons/leaders through engaging with their communities about water issues that affect them or share information on available resources, opportunities, or pertinent issues.
2. **Community Building and Engagement:** Improve and strengthen community and neighborhood relations by better understanding community needs and providing better service. Engage diverse communities' participation in local government.
3. **Network Development:** Develop a network of community liaisons to share real-time information on their community issues, needs as well as share water district project details or impacts, and available community resources.

Session Themes:

1. **Session 1: *Value of Water*** (Tues. Feb. 6)
Session will cover state and local water systems, water challenges and opportunities, as well as an overview of water district history, mission, organizational functions, and key projects.
2. **Session 2: *Where does your water come and how does it get to Silicon Valley?*** (Wed. Feb. 20)
Session will cover water supply issues, including conservation, water reuse, key infrastructure upgrades, budget, and other water utility topics.
3. **Session 3: *Providing Flood Protection and Healthy Creeks and Ecosystem*** (Wed. March 13)
Session will cover overview of watersheds topics such as flood control projects, stream maintenance program, creek cleanup efforts, and other environmental efforts.
4. **Session 4: *Getting WET in the field.*** (Sat. March 23)
Session will cover Water Education Training (WET) outdoor fieldtrip by our education outreach team to our purification center, outdoor classroom visit, percolation pond, lab tour, and other district facilities.
5. **Session 5: *Graduation*** (Tues. March 26)
Session will include graduation reception and board resolution during board meeting.

Outcomes:

1. Increase general knowledge about state and local water systems and infrastructure, local water supply, flood protection, and environmental stewardship projects.
2. Engage and encourage ambassadors to be local water champions and better environmental stewards.
3. Stay connected by creating two-way communications to share pertinent water information, news, project updates and issues related to water that impact local communities.

Session One Learning Objectives

Session 1: *Value of Water – A frank conversation about water challenges in California & Silicon Valley.*

Session will cover state and local water systems, water challenges and opportunities, as well as an overview of water district history, mission, organizational functions, and key projects.

By the end of session one:

1. Participants will better understand the state water system, particularly the State Water Project.
2. Participants will better understand the water district's history, mission, local role in the community, key priorities and projects, and its value to the community.
3. Participants will better understand the overall state and local water challenges and opportunities that exist.
4. Participants will better understand the role of imported water, ground water, water conservation and water reuse in water supply planning
5. Participants will better understand the role of flood protection projects and environmental stewardship efforts.