



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Students Study How Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Help Protect South Florida's Freshwater Resources *SFWMD hosting 50 high school students for GIS Day 2010*



(Click on the picture for a larger version.)

WHAT: In celebration of GIS Day and Geography Awareness Week, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) will host students from Jupiter High School's Jupiter Environmental Research and Field Studies Academy to share how technologies such as GIS, Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and Google Earth are used to study, manage, conserve and restore South Florida's water resources, ecosystems and the Everglades. The media is invited to participate in the day's events.

During GIS Day 2010, SFWMD scientists and staff will host a conference for students with presentations about how geospatial technologies help to manage water resources. Students will share their work on a GIS project on water quality completed in their classrooms and tour the District's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the Operations Control Room, where water levels are monitored around the clock. They will also view interactive displays at the Hydro Learning Lab.

GIS Day is a global event to raise awareness of geographic information systems technology and the important contributions it makes in the fields of science, technology, information and the humanities. It is held yearly during Geography Awareness Week, an educational initiative sponsored by the National Geographic Society since 1987 to increase geo-literacy. This year, organizations and schools around the world, including the SFWMD, will celebrate National Geographic's selected theme of freshwater.

At the District, geographers, engineers, wetland scientists and many others use GIS and GPS for a variety of work, including:

- Restoring the Everglades and protecting South Florida's ecosystems.
- Mapping and analyzing data from canal structures and pump stations used to manage flood control, water quality and water supply.
- Supporting emergency preparation and response for hurricanes and storms.
- Monitoring Florida's wildlife, such as the endangered Everglades snail kite.

For more information, see:

- [GIS Day 2010](#)
- [Geography Awareness Week](#)
- [Jupiter Environmental Research and Field Studies Academy](#)

WHEN: Wednesday, November 17, 2010

TIME: 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

WHERE: SFWMD Headquarters
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

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About the South Florida Water Management District

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.