



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Osceola Legacy Program Involves Students in Land Management *Students will track wildlife and enhance gopher tortoise habitat*

WHAT: Students from Osceola County School for the Arts will spend a morning surveying gopher tortoise burrows at the Osceola Schools Environmental Study Center Scrub Site to help the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) kick off a new hands-on environmental education program.

Known as Legacy, the program connects water resource and environmental education with land management activities. Legacy partners local high schools with public lands managed by the District to provide outdoor learning experiences for teachers and students.

The Osceola County Schools Scrub Site at Reedy Creek is one of four sites around the 16-county District that will be part of the program in 2010-2011. A riverine cypress swamp is located in the watershed of Reedy Creek, which connects Lake Russell to Cypress Lake and Lake Hatchineha. While floodplain swamp dominates, 13 additional communities, including rare dry prairie, mesic flatwoods and scrub are also found.

For more information on the Legacy program, please visit the District's Educational Programs [website](#).

WHEN: Thursday, November 18, 2010

TIME: 10 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

WHERE: Osceola Schools Environmental Study Center Scrub Site
2600 W. Southport Road
Kissimmee, FL 34759

WHO: District staff will join Osceola County School for the Arts students and teachers at this event.

DIRECTIONS:

From downtown Kissimmee, follow John Young Parkway south to Pleasant Hill Road and turn left. Travel 7.5 miles on Pleasant Hill Road to Southport Road and turn left. Go 0.7 miles on Southport Road to the entrance of the Osceola County Schools Environmental Study Center Scrub Site.

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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.