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ADEQ Plans Water Quality Testing Event for Verde Valley Students as part of National Children's Health Month

PHOENIX (Oct. 25, 2010) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today that the agency will partner with Dead Horse Ranch State Park to sponsor a water quality testing event in the Verde River for 80 charter school students from Cottonwood and Camp Verde at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 27 as part of ADEQ's statewide activities conducted during national Children's Health Month.

The students, from American Heritage Academy, will be divided into groups and given kits to test for pH balance, temperature, dissolved oxygen and turbidity in the water.

The event also is being conducted in honor of World Water Monitoring Day, which was celebrated by more than 120,000 people in 81 countries monitoring their local waterways last year.

"Watershed events in the Verde Valley and throughout the state increase environmental awareness and help students of all ages protect public health year-round," ADEQ Director Benjamin H. Grumbles said.

ADEQ has spearheaded numerous initiatives to protect children's health including a school bus idling reduction program which now has more than 700 schools in the state participating. The agency also has a school flag program that communicates daily air quality conditions at school districts in Maricopa and Pinal counties as well as a daily wind forecast for Yuma County.

Also, underground storage tanks at numerous school sites around the state have been evaluated and leaks cleaned up and assistance has been rendered to assist schools in controlling pests and using responsible pesticide applications.

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