



DATE: Oct. 26, 2011

CONTACT: Mark Shaffer, Director of Communications, (602) 771-2215 (o);  
(480) 433-9551 (cell)

## **ADEQ, City of Williams, Xanterra Plan Water Quality Testing Event for Williams Sixth-Grade Students at Cataract Lake**

PHOENIX (Oct. 26, 2011) – The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, City of Williams and Xanterra Parks & Resorts at the Grand Canyon Railway announced today that they will co-sponsor a water quality testing event from 11 a.m. until noon for 20 Williams sixth-grade science students on Thursday, Nov. 10 at Cataract Lake.

Students will be divided into groups and given kits to test for pH balance, temperature, dissolved oxygen and turbidity in the water. The event will be conducted on the shores of the lake, located in northwest Williams. The event is part of ADEQ's water education efforts around the state

“Water testing events like this for the Williams students at Cataract Lake and throughout the state increase environmental awareness and help students of all ages protect public health year-round,” ADEQ Director Henry Darwin said.

“Xanterra Parks & Resorts at the Grand Canyon Railway is excited to partner with ADEQ, the City of Williams and the Williams School to help promote water quality awareness,” said Morgan O’Connor, Xanterra’s Environmental Affairs Director.

City of Williams officials also said they were eagerly anticipating the event.

“It’s important that schoolchildren learn about the ecosystem around them and that a love of science be fostered within them. We welcome this event to Williams and are happy to be participating in it,” said Joe Duffy, Williams’ finance director.

“Hands-on learning about local water sources is a wonderful education strategy and the students will be allowed to apply science in a real world situation,” said Williams Elementary Middle School science teacher Jessyka Wengreen, whose students will be participating in the event.

In addition, the event is being held in observance of World Water Monitoring Day, which was held on Sept. 18 this year and was celebrated by more than 212,000 people on six continents monitoring their local waterways last year.

To receive press releases by email: <http://www.azdeq.gov/subscribe.html>  
Follow ADEQ on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/azdeq>  
Follow ADEQ on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/ArizonaDEQ>