The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service has been providing water quality education to youth in the Millwood Lake Watershed in Southwest Arkansas since 1992. Initial efforts of the five-county program were borne out of the Lake Millwood HUA grant funded by USDA and are currently supported by an EPA watershed grant in the Lower Little River watershed.

A curriculum entitled, “The Water’s Edge” has been used with 5th and 6th grade classes in several school districts throughout the watershed. Each spring, the effort culminates with over 800 participating youth attending the Millwood Water Carnival. Several state and federal agencies assist with the Carnival and provide a wide array of water quality educational programs and fun.

Water quality education is also provided through 4-H conservation clubs, 4-H stream teams, and other 4-H environmental programs.

Finally, water quality education is provided to youth ranging from Kindergarten to High School through Extension’s School Enrichment Program and field trips.

Extension offers a variety of water quality opportunities for youth including stream teams, “Save Our Streams” (SOS), Project WET and WILD activities. Extension has partnered with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission to develop 4-H Stream teams. These 4-H clubs adopt stream segments to monitor water quality, aquatic wildlife, and maintain the natural scenic beauty.

“Partners
Arkansas State Parks  Arkansas Forestry Commission  US Corps of Engineers  Arkansas Game and Fish Commission  NRCS  Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality

“Save Our Streams” is a reward for students who have participated in the “The Water’s Edge Program”. It combines outdoor educational workshops with lots of fun.