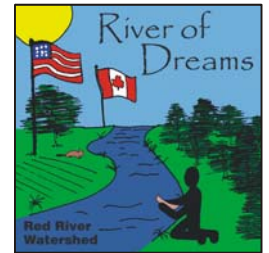




River of Dreams Canoe Launch Program



The River of Dreams Canoe Launch Program is an interactive educational project that is inspired by the award winning book "Paddle to the Sea" by H.C. Holling and the film by Bill Mason.

The innovative program helps give students, teachers, and the public a better understanding of their local watershed. Elementary, junior, and senior high students decorate 14-inch cedar canoes and toss them into a river or one of its tributaries. Each canoe has an identifying six-digit number along with instructions asking people who find it to call the International Water Institute or log onto their web site (www.internationalwaterinstitute.org) and describe where they found the canoe before placing it back into the water. The students are able to track their canoe's progress on the river through the web site.

Schools participating in the program receive a classroom kit of watershed activities that incorporate math, science, geography, culture, art, and music into lessons on the river basin.

In the Red River of the North Basin and its tributaries, students have released more than 2,000 canoes. The canoes take a northward journey as the Red River travels between North Dakota and Minnesota before crossing into Canada and flowing into Lake Winnipeg. The ultimate dream is for all canoes to reach the ocean.

"My prediction for my canoe is to go to Winnipeg. But I don't think it will get very far. I know it will see fish, trees, and so on. If it's lucky it will get to Hudson Bay who knows. (Student, Grand Forks, ND)



"I myself had little to no knowledge about watersheds, water issues, etc. The River of Dreams activity helped me to learn more about water issues as a teacher, consumer, and parent. (Speech/Language Pathologist, Turtle Mountain Reservation School, ND)

A River of Dreams canoe painted by a participant.



For more information on the
River of Dreams Canoe Launch Program
 visit: www.internationalwaterinstitute.org
 or call 701-231-5266

