

Exploring watersheds at the Sciencenter

Want to make a real splash this summer? Get out and explore your watershed. It's a great way to have fun while learning something cool about the natural world.

Need inspiration or ideas? Make a stop at the Sciencenter

to check out our Featured Exhibition "Ocean Bound!" This exhibition invites you to embark on a journey through watersheds without getting wet.

No matter where you live, you live in a watershed and your actions can have a signif-

icant impact on life downstream — all the way to the ocean. How and where you dispose of trash, household chemicals, expired medicines, even dog poop, can affect the condition of the fresh water resources that are vital to the health of people, pets and wildlife.

If you are fortunate enough to have a creek in your own backyard, you can explore how water moves across land. If you don't live near a creek, you can come to the Sciencenter and see for yourself how water moves across wide geographic areas as you manipulate precipitation across a mountain range.

You can also learn about what lives beneath the surface in various bodies of water as you conduct a "virtual dive" and take a journey all the way to the ocean. As the pilot of an

underwater submersible vehicle you can explore various flora and fauna that occur all the way from a mountain stream to the ocean. With high-definition footage of underwater animals, including crayfish, fish, turtles and otters, you can zoom in close to observe animals in their natural aquatic environment and learn just how much is going on under the surface.



LARA LITCHFIELD-KIMBER
Sciencenter Connection

"Ocean Bound!" features other exhibits to connect you to your watershed and help you care for it. While testing your coordination, you can challenge yourself to guide water safely through a maze that represents various threats to watershed health. By diverting pollutants away from storm-water drains you help water navigate safely to sea. I promise, you will be a-"mazed" at how

you take a fresh look at how water flows and what water carries as it moves across parking lots and down your street after a rainstorm.

Even young children can get into the action by identifying human behaviors that help protect watersheds.

You will be thrilled at how your young child will take these concepts with them as they head into the great outdoors, right here in Ithaca, and beyond.

After a visit to the Sciencenter, and after you and your family explore Flat Rock, the shores of Cayuga Lake or any of the other jewels throughout the Finger Lakes region, e-mail info@sciencenter.org. We love to learn of your watershed adventures.

Lara Litchfield-Kimber is the deputy director of the Sciencenter, located at 601 First St. in Ithaca. Sciencenter Connections will appear in Ticket on the second Thursday of each month.

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