

QUICK FACTS

- **CUSP** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that has made **Environmental Education** a priority since we were founded in 1998
- The **Upper South Platte** watershed supplies ~ **70% of all of Colorado's** drinking, agricultural and commercial water supply
- **Our work protects lives, homes, infrastructure and the environment**
- Our **Service Learning Program** combines quantifiable learning objectives with on-the-ground service projects that address critical environmental needs
- We can support up to 100 participants for a single day service learning project
- We work with schools, home school students and groups from all over the state and country with students from elementary to college age
- **Environmental Stewards** are not born; they are nurtured, educated and given opportunities to explore, enjoy and engage in the wonders of Nature



Volunteer with CUSP
We would love to work with you!

**Lend a hand, get dirty
and make a difference!**

GENERAL VOLUNTEER HOURS

8:00 am – 3:00 pm (may vary)

Operating Months: April – November

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office hours: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Phone: 719.748.0033

Fax: 719.302.2852

Email: CUSP@uppersouthplatte.org

To request your **Volunteer Project** date please go to our website www.volunteer.cusp.ws and select:

New Volunteer Form

To sign up for **Learning Modules** go to: www.learn.uppersouthplatte.org



CUSP **COALITION FOR THE UPPER SOUTH PLATTE**



SERVICE LEARNING PROJECTS

Place-based environmental education integrates working outdoors with science literacy enrichment by protecting water quality and ecological health in our precious natural areas

VISION

A healthy watershed now and in the future

MISSION

To protect the water quality and ecological health of the Upper South Platte Watershed, through cooperative efforts of the watershed stakeholders, with emphasis placed on community values and economic sustainability

WHY CHOOSE CUSP

- The **CDE** has made **Environmental Literacy** an educational priority for Colorado students - **CUSP** is a member of the **CEELC** and the **CAEE**
- **CUSP** has developed free **CEEP** standards-based **Learning Modules** for teachers, home-schoolers and students to use in conjunction with structured **Service Learning Projects**
- People protect and cherish what they love and they love what they know and understand. Our children need to know, comprehend and value their **profound ties to their natural world**; and understand that they are a part of nature - not apart from it
- **Place-based, experiential learning** opportunities turn the outdoors into a classroom where students can see the impacts of their work in a real-world environment
- **CUSP** stresses **safety** in all of our programs and projects. We emphasize a **2:10 Adult to Student ratio**
- **CUSP** provides all the equipment and personal safety equipment required for projects

Due to the many programs CUSP administers, advance scheduling is recommended, so complete your new volunteer form today!

BEFORE THE PROJECT

- To schedule your **Service Learning Project** go to www.volunteer.cusp.ws, click on **New Volunteer Form**. Tell us about your group and submit your request today!

After your request is submitted you will be contacted by our **Volunteer Coordinator** within 5 business days

- We will provide you with all necessary participant paperwork and organize the logistics and all needed materials
- Ensure each participant (or legal guardian for students under the age of 18) completes a **CUSP Release Form** and, as a group, completes our **Volunteer Listing** document.
- Review and share our **Project Information** sheet with all participants to ensure participants are dressed appropriately and know what to expect
- Our **Volunteer Coordinator** will be available to discuss any other questions or concerns throughout the organizing process.

Research more about **CUSP** Service Learning modules, projects and other educational resources by visiting the following websites:

www.learn.uppersouthplatte.org

www.cusp.ws

www2.epa.gov/education

www.fs.usda.gov/main/conservationeducation

WHERE WE WORK

The 2,600 square mile, 1.6-million-acre Upper South Platte Watershed lies in the heart of Colorado. When disaster strikes, we come to the aid of our neighboring watersheds too!



“The Staff at CUSP were terrific with the children, and the project was both well-organized and a perfect choice for our age group. The work instilled stewardship and appreciation for our public lands. It was truly a “Project with a Purpose” thanks to the expert guidance of the staff.”

**Testimonial - Gay Carlson, Teacher
Ricks Center for Gifted Children
at Denver University**

