

16th Annual Dia del Rio

Water Quality Education Event, October 2010

The Paso Del Norte Watershed Council (PdNWC) and area students took part in the 16th Annual Dia del Rio on the Rio Grande. The purpose of Dia del Rio is to educate the public about the Rio Grande's significance and the importance of maintaining a healthy watershed for the millions of people and the ecosystem that depend on the river.

Students from 50 schools within the Rio Grande watershed collected water samples and took water quality measurements on October 6, 2010. Two schools in Las Cruces, NM, the Sierra Middle School and Mayfield High School, collected water samples at the Picacho Bridge river site and at the Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park. At both sites, representatives from the PdNWC talked to the students about healthy watersheds.

Dia del Rio was also symbolized during a "Water Relay" which started at the Rio Grande headwaters in Colorado on October 6, 2010. The Rio Grande water was put in special containers and collected over the course of several days in New Mexico, Texas, and Mexico. The fresh water collected was poured into the Gulf of Mexico on Saturday, October 16, 2010. Water samples from the Rio Grande were ceremonially transferred by a school teacher and a representative of PdNWC to a representative of Dia del Rio on October 10 at Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park.

The Dia del Rio Event was sponsored by Rio Grande International Study Center in Laredo, Texas and more information can be found at the Dia del Rio website

www.diadelrio.com.



Students in Las Cruces, NM learn about water quality sampling. Photo by Brian Hanson.



Luzma Fabiola Nava, NMSU and Conrad Keyes, Jr., the chair of the PdNWC, talk to students about healthy watersheds. Photo by Brian Hanson.