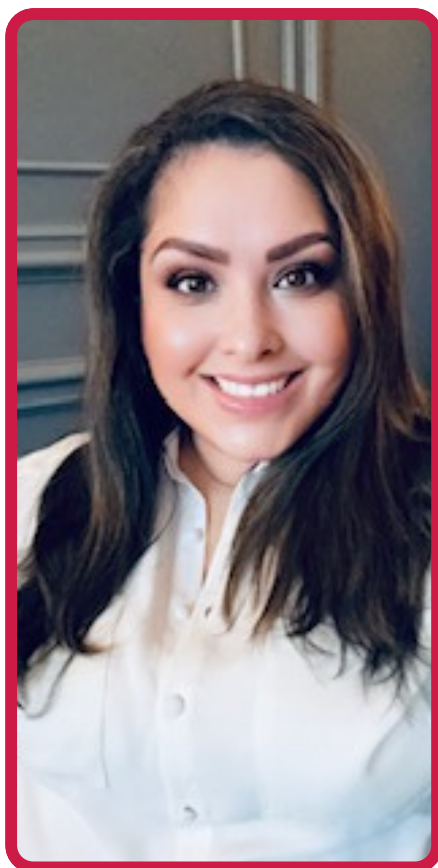




Introducing 4-H Associate Educator, Olga Meza!



Hello! My name is Olga Meza. I am the new Bilingual 4-H Associate Educator at Extension Wood County. I also work with the Wood County Health Department as a Bilingual Community Health Worker.

I am a graduate of the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, earning my Bachelor of Arts Degree in Spanish. I completed my student teaching in Instituto Oaxaca Cultural, Oaxaca, México.

I was previously the Bilingual Parent Educator, through the Parents as Teachers program with the Wood County Health Department where I worked with infants to age 3. However, my passion as an educator has been focused in secondary education. Before the pandemic I was teaching Spanish at Assumption Middle and High School.

I am extremely excited to work with the Hispanic Latine Youth in Wood County to provide bilingual/bi-literate/bi-cultural skills. In particular, as an Associate Educator I will implement the Tools to Thrive and Juntos programs in partnership with local school districts. These programs are focused on supporting Latine students and families so they can succeed in school and in their communities.

I enjoy traveling with my family and two children. We like to spend a lot of time in Mexico during school breaks. My husband and I enjoy going to concerts and trying new restaurants.

I look forward to continuing serving the Hispanic/Latine community of Wood County.

If you see opportunities for collaboration, please feel free to reach out to me at omeza@wisc.edu or 715-315-4796.



Science by the River 2024

by Jen McNelly, Natural Resources Groundwater Educator



Science By The River
Wisconsin Rapids

Planning is well under way for the fourth annual Science by the River event. Science by the River will be held on **Saturday October 5, 2024 from 11 am to 2 pm.**

Science by the River is a celebration of all things science and outdoors! This free, one-day event gives attendees of all ages an opportunity to connect to the Wisconsin River and science in our community. Science by the River is being hosted by multiple community organizations including UW-Extension Wood County and Clean Green Action and is made possible through a grant from the Incentive Community Foundation.

Discover stations will be set up along the walking path from Ben Hansen Park to the Wisconsin Rapids downtown Farmer's Market. Each station will showcase different aspects of science through information, demonstrations, and hands on learning opportunities!

We are currently recruiting discovery station hosts for the event. Discovery station hosts should have a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and/or Math) focus and passion for sharing their work with kids and adults alike. If you know a community organization or group that might like to serve as a discovery station host they can register by September 13, 2024 at : <https://forms.gle/JAxJ6WyTHdcDCvGaA>.

Currently registered station hosts include the Sandhill Wildlife area that will have furs that participants can explore, Bird City Wisconsin Rapids will have a hands-on activity for kids to build insect habitats, the Center for Watershed Science and Education will have a groundwater model that participants can explore as well as free nitrate screenings for private well owners, Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards and the Wisconsin Forestry Center.

Families and residents of all ages are encouraged to attend this fun event. Those that visit discovery stations throughout the day will have the opportunity to earn a prize! Science by the River will be held rain or shine this year, with a rain location of the Wisconsin Rapids East Junior High. For more information about the event and discovery station hosts you can visit the Science by the River Facebook Page!



For any additional questions you can contact Anna Mitchell, Extension Wood County - 715-421-8440 or anna.m.james@wisc.edu.