



# Missouri River Education

*Using the Missouri River as a classroom for learners of all ages*

The mission of Missouri River Relief is to connect people to the Missouri River through hands-on river clean-ups, education events and stewardship activities.

It's been thirteen years since Missouri River Relief held our first community clean-up in Easley, MO. Cleaning up all the trash on the Missouri River is a daunting goal. Very quickly we realized that the easiest way to get rid of trash is if it never ends up in the river in the first place.

Education is the key. Education provides the context that gives meaning to our work on the river. Education gives students and adults the tools to understand their place in the Missouri river watershed and how they can be part of improving it. Missouri River Relief's Education Program will plan and provide on-the-river, hands-on educational activities for children and adults that will help foster an understanding and appreciation of the Missouri River.

During the last decade, this mission has introduced more than 35,000 students, teachers and volunteers to the beauty and importance of the Missouri River. By teaching the values of clean water and the impacts of human pollution on wildlife and ecosystems, we give our community the knowledge to make change in local environmental issues.

By expanding this program, we will show communities how they are capable of protecting the health of this majestic river and why it is important to us and our future generations.

## Results

- 19,563 Volunteers
- 15,516 Students & Teachers
- 924 River Miles
- 756 Tons of Trash
- 200+ Presentations & Big Muddy Speakers Series
- 76 Learning Festivals & Education Events
- 61 Educational River Trips
- 27 Conferences & Workshops
- 10 Plantings & Restoration
- 12 Water Quality Monitoring



# Big Muddy Toolbox

## *Our Missouri River Education Toolbox*

Cleaning up trash on the Missouri River is a big job. But we don't stop there. By building a connection and understanding of the river, we foster citizen stewardship. Young, growing minds are the best place to start.

That happens through education. Get people on the river, engaging their hands **and** their minds. Get their feet muddy!

## Watershed Festivals

Hands-on learning is the focus. The riverbank is the location. River Relief and its partners bring dozens of scientists, educators and volunteers together to share their expertise with hundreds of school children right where it matters most.

These massive events provide a physical, outdoor education experience for the most possible students.

## “Day on the River” Service Learning

Get kids out on the river to clean it up! Through direct experience and a little effort, they walk away with a renewed relationship to the river and more knowledge than they thought they'd gain on a boat trip.

Our “Day on the River” program combines riverside watershed and environmental education with physically cleaning up the river itself.

## Big Muddy Speaker Series

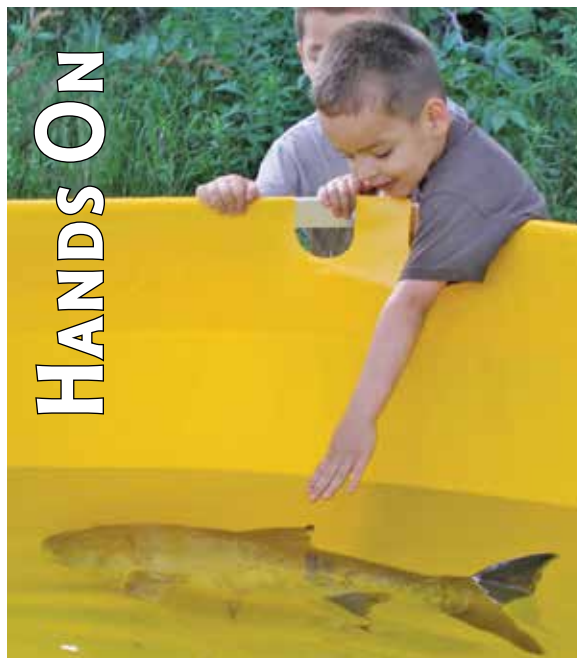
*In partnership with Friends of Big Muddy & U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*

**Monthly presentations** are given on Missouri River topics by the experts in their field. History, biology, hydrology, and river uses are just some of the topics. Presenters include: US Geological Survey River Studies, Missouri Dept. of Conservation, Big Muddy NFWR, US Fish & Wildlife Service and more. The Series has now branched out to three locations! Rocheport, Kansas City and St. Charles!

## River Excursions

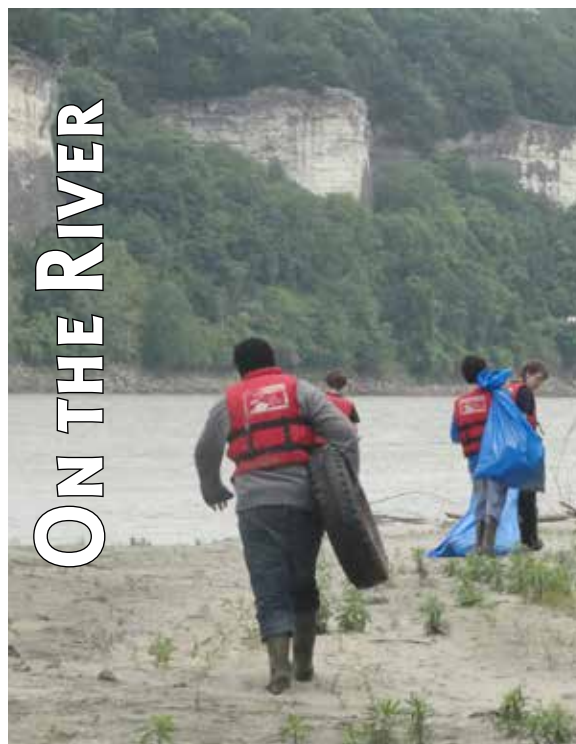
Learning best takes place on the river itself, where every moment brings a new experience. We have the unique tools, boats and river knowledge to turn a boat trip into a watershed moment for participants.

Our custom river excursions work for diverse audiences and purposes from at-risk students to adults looking for a deeper understanding of the longest river in North America.



***“This was a perfect example of a quality service learning project. I think the students and the teachers learned a great deal. I hope we can do it again next year.”***

***- Teresa Regan, principal,  
Owensville MS***



# Growing our Program

*The next step for Missouri River Relief*

One thing we've discovered in our decade of work on the Missouri River: the Big Muddy is a classroom with the power to impact people's lives and perceptions on their connection to the natural world.

Our goal is to make this experience available to more people - students and adults - and to provide the basic tools for understanding this amazing resource.

## Goals of Growth

The Missouri River Environmental Education Program is being established to enhance our outreach to current and future generations of students, teachers and citizens, in which, to create a society cautiously aware of our actions on our local environment. This program will bring local communities closer to the Missouri River by using education festivals, workshops, service learning events, river field-trips, river clean-ups, classroom presentations and more to expand our awareness of the growing concerns in protecting this valuable river environment.

“ **Before my boat ride I was very against going near the river. Now I have a new appreciation for the river and its purpose.** ”

– ‘Green Works in Kansas City’ student after her first river excursion.

## The Plan

- **Hire an education coordinator** - our first step is to dedicate the necessary resources to bring aboard a talented educator dedicated to enhancing the educational aspects of our current programs and develop new educational projects on the river.
- **Compile a Missouri River curriculum** - focus on bringing together existing educational resources and enhancing them to share a deeper understanding of the Missouri River watershed, our impact on it and its importance to our communities.
- **Grow our website** - focus on providing helpful educational content for the internet public.
- Focus on the river - our goal is to provide new opportunities for hands-on, on-the-river education for students and adults.
- **Enhance partnerships** - as an independent non-profit we can serve as a bridge, catalyst and partner for the many talented scientists, educators and river businesses already working on the Missouri River.

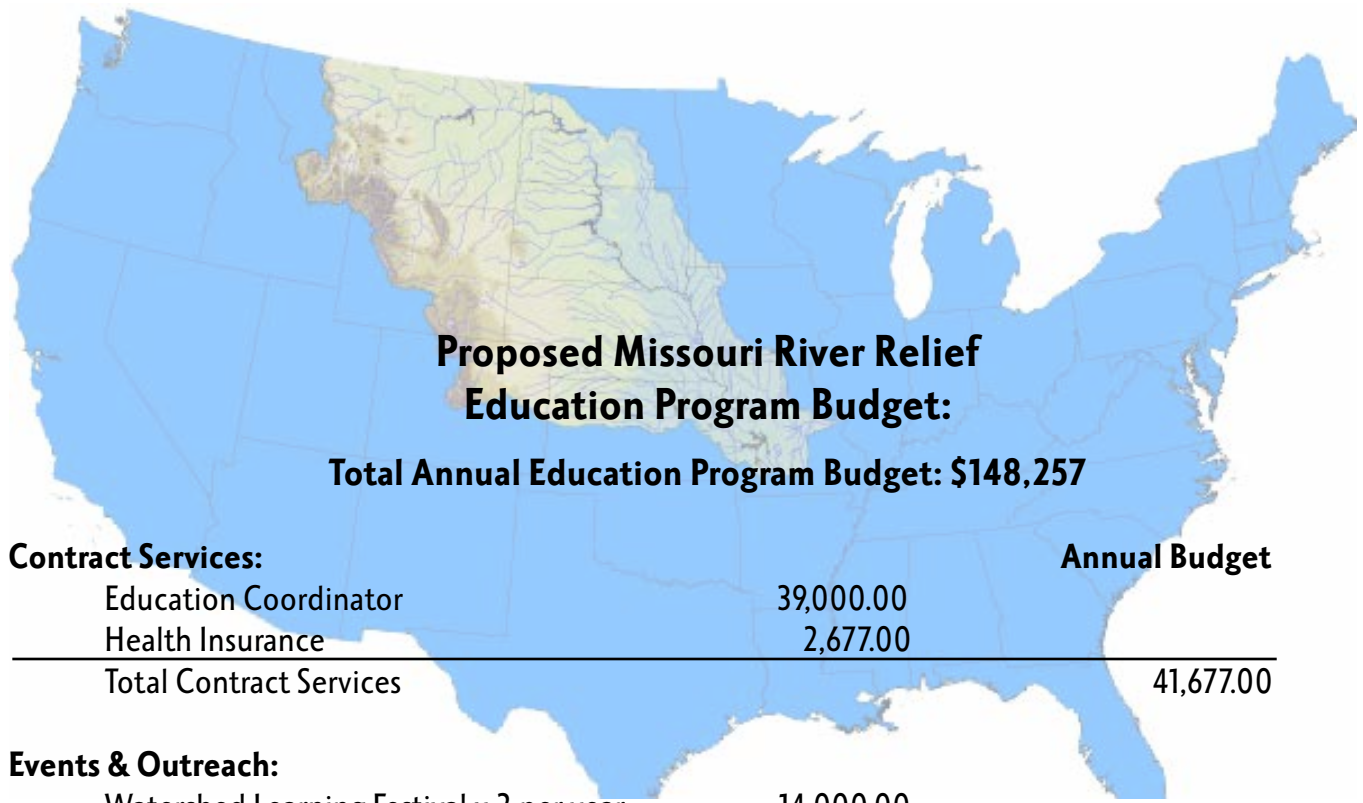
## The Program

Here's our annual goal for education events:

- 2 Watershed Festivals
- 3 “Day on the River” mini-festivals with real service learning
- 1 River educator workshop
- 10 River Excursions with a variety of audiences
- 36 Big Muddy Speaker Series presentations in three cities



# Join us in Our Vision for a Better River



<b>Contract Services:</b>		<b>Annual Budget</b>
Education Coordinator	39,000.00	
Health Insurance	2,677.00	
<b>Total Contract Services</b>		<b>41,677.00</b>
<b>Events &amp; Outreach:</b>		
Watershed Learning Festival x 2 per year	14,000.00	
Day on the River Service/Learning x 4 per year	24,760.00	
River Excursions x 10 per year	16,750.00	
Outreach Programs	2,400.00	
<b>Total Events &amp; Outreach</b>		<b>57,910.00</b>
<b>Education Materials:</b>		
Education Packages, Displays, Training Materials, Media, Education Webpage, etc.		
<b>Total Education Materials</b>		<b>8,900.00</b>
<b>Shared Organization Expenses:</b>		
Administrative Services	16,000.00	
Fundraising	2,700.00	
Fleet Operations & Maintenance	13,570.00	
<b>Total Organization Expenses</b>		<b>32,270.00</b>
<b>Capital Expenses:</b>		<b>7,500.00</b>
<b>TOTAL ANNUAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>\$148,257.00</b>