



RESOURCE  
CONSERVATION  
& DEVELOPMENT

*Partnerships Serving America's Communities*



## Natural Resource Education Center Coolidge, AZ



### Rolling Rivers Trailers

Students use the Rolling River Trailers to learn about proper and responsible community planning in watersheds. The hands-on activity allows for students to stimulate an active watershed with a "rolling" river through their "towns."

The Natural Resource Education Center's (NREC) mission is to nurture an awareness of natural and renewable resources. NREC teaches conservation techniques so these resources will be available to be used by future generations. The primary focus is on local elementary students.



### Learning about Soils

As a partner, NRCS specialists assist NREC with teaching about the dynamics of soils and the importance of healthy soils in productive agriculture.

The NREC is located on the campus of the Central Arizona College (CAC) in Coolidge, AZ. The college provides NREC four acres of land with water on which NREC plants crops. The college also provides NREC with a stand-alone classroom building. Children are bused from their schools to the education center.



### Water Cycle

The Water Cycle (also known as the hydrologic cycle) is the journey water takes as it circulates from the land to the sky and back again. Students demo the precipitation of the cycle in this activity.

On an average school year, the NREC present 51+ field days at CAC, 36 classroom visits, and 4 community events. They teach nearly 4,400 students and over 470 adults.

# Snapshots of Hohokam RC&D ~ NREC Project

## Working through Partnerships

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*Dear NREC,*

*Thank you for the terrific field trip. We enjoyed learning about farming, plants and food. We loved picking the radishes!*

Antonya  
8 years old

**Saguaro Elementary School**

Third Grader  
Casa Grande, AZ

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The Natural Resource Education Center (NREC) is associated with three Natural Resource Conservation Districts (NRCD): West Pinal, Florence-Coolidge and Eloy. USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service provides office space for NREC. Sources of funding include the State of Arizona General Appropriations Fund, Environmental License Plate Fund, and the three NRCDs listed above. Private donations and grants are also a source of funding. Hohokam RC&D is instrumental in securing funds.



### It takes a Village . . .

. . . to “work” agriculture. It’s the #1 industry in the U.S., employing one out of every five people. From field to consumer and every job in between, our quality of life is built on this basis.

## “The Five C’s of Arizona”



The history of Arizona is colorful and interesting. This is one of the five programs offered at NREC. It introduces children to the five symbols founded in the Great Seal of the State of Arizona: Copper, Cattle, Citrus, Cotton and Climate.

Students learn how to start a siphon using a tube to do furrow irrigation, a practice still used in central Arizona, to water cotton.