Spotlight on DTSC

DTSC Interacts With Thousands Of School Kids At State Scientist Day

Thousands of students learned about science Wednesday, May 15 at the State Scientist Day near the west steps of the State Capitol. The annual event brought together scientists and staff from various state departments, including Toxic Substances Control.

The focus of State Scientists day is to promote science to elementary school students, and organizers anticipated about 4,000 students to attend the three-hour event.

DTSC's booth was run by Research Program Specialist James Joelson and Associate Governmental Program Analyst Sharon Kipp. The pair gave students pollution prevention posters and prepared hazardous-waste related trivia questions for the curious kids.

Joelson has represented DTSC at the event for three years. "Events like this give us a chance to share some of the interesting work that we do," Joelson said. "The kids have an enthusiasm for even the simplest things, and that makes you appreciate where you work and what we, as a department, are trying to accomplish. Everything we do here is really about future generations."

Kipp also appreciated the exchanges with the students on Wednesday. "The most enjoyable part about State Scientist Day is interacting with the children," said Kipp, who has represented DTSC at the event the last two years. "There was excitement in the air and the "Mad Scientists" put on quite a show. It was wonderful to see a great turnout from the various school districts."

Kipp is referring to the organization Mad Science, which put on two 45-minute science shows for the students. Mad Science's mission is to "spark the imagination and curiosity of children by providing them with fun, interactive and educational programs that instill a clear understanding of what science is, and how it affects their world."

DTSC's James Joelson reads a trivia question to students during State Scientist Day. DTSC's Sharon Kipp is at right. To view a photo gallery from State Scientist Day click here.