



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

MEDIA ADVISORY

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CONTACT:

Gabe Margasak

South Florida Water Management District

Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 670-1245

www.sfwmd.gov/news

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**Students to Learn How Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
Technology Helps the SFWMD Protect the Everglades, Water Supply**
*Media are invited to participate in fifth-grade GIS mapping exercises November 18 at
Pine Jog Elementary to teach the importance of geography*



WHAT: In support of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Day, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is partnering with Pine Jog Elementary School to teach students how geography plays a key role in their everyday lives. GIS and Global Positioning Systems (GPS) are vital technologies that help the District study, manage and conserve South Florida's precious water resources, ecosystems and the Everglades.

During GIS Day, SFWMD volunteers and Pine Jog Elementary teachers will lead fifth-grade students through fun, hands-on educational activities. The projects include using GPS units to collect data on school grounds and creating digital maps with GIS software.

Held each year during the National Geographic Society's Geography Awareness Week (November 16-20 in 2009), GIS Day is a global event to

raise awareness of geographic information systems technology and the important contributions it makes in the fields of science, technology, information and the humanities.

At the District, geographers, engineers, wetland scientists and many others use GIS and GPS for a variety of work, including:

- Restoring the Everglades and protecting South Florida's ecosystems.
- Mapping and analyzing data from canal structures and pump stations used to manage flood control, water quality and water supply.
- Supporting emergency preparation and response for hurricanes and storms.
- Monitoring Florida's wildlife, such as the endangered Everglades snail kite.

WHEN: Wednesday, November 18, 2009

TIME: 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: Pine Jog Elementary School, 6315 Summit Blvd., West Palm Beach, FL 33415. [Click here for a map.](#)



WHO: SFWMD staff, teachers and students. A group of students has received permission to be photographed or filmed by the media during the event.

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About the South Florida Water Management District – [Celebrating 60 Years \(1949-2009\)](#)

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state - 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.