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2015
International
Year of Soils

Dear Educators,

Thank you for your interest in the 2015 International Year of Soils! It's going to be a fun and informational year.

On December 5, the 1st World Soil Day was celebrated around the world and this annual "day" will always be held on 12/5. In addition, at the United Nations headquarters in New York, the 2015 International Year of Soils was launched. The Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) was proud to have been a part of these celebrations and will continue for 2015 and beyond.

As part of the celebrations and our commitment to soil science education and outreach, we have been making plans to mark this important year – a year that provides an elevated platform to talk and opportunity to educate about soils and their critical importance to individuals and civilization as a whole.

What you have in your hands, SSSA's 2015 International Year of Soils Educators Kit, is a great start of all information we will be providing this year. It includes:

- **SOIL! Get the Inside Scoop** – our 36-page, full-color book (written at a 4-5th grade level) explores how soil is part of our life—the food we eat, the air we breathe, the water we drink, the houses we live in, and more. And, along the way, readers learn about different kinds of soil and meet the scientists who work with soil every day. (a \$20 value) The accompanying teachers' guide is available at www.soils4teachers.org;
- **Activity List** – highlighting all of the activities we are providing/launching in 2015;
- **Coloring and Activity Book** – fun for the K-2 set;
- **Soil Taxonomy Poster** – highlighting the 12 Soil Orders;
- **Soils Sustain Life Overview** – an overview of our January theme – Soils Sustain Life;
- **Careers Poster** – highlighting many unique opportunities for careers in soil science;
- **Sticker Template** – We've created a template of our iconic I ❤️ Soil stickers – fun for kids and adults alike (and more languages are available at www.soils.org/IYS/stickers);
- Information on becoming a "**Friend of Soil Science**" and accessing our Trial Membership – both at no charge to you;
- **I ❤️ Soil Ruler** (including metric); and,
- **Know Soil, Know Life Pencil** (which could also be read as No Soil, No Life!)

We'll be sending you a monthly email featuring the theme of the month, links to a monthly video on the same theme (featuring Jim Toomey), and additional resources for use in your classroom. You'll also receive, in the email, information on upcoming months so you can plan your activities.

Please use the resources in this Educators Kit! Visit our www.soils.org/IYS website often during year as we'll be continually adding resources. Questions about this kit? Feel free to contact us at membership@soils.org or at 608-273-8080.

Soil Science Society of America