

Conservation Leadership

"A good leader is one who has made a lasting impact on people who he is not commanding."

The Academy of Conservation Leadership program was named after Warren County SWCD Supervisor and OFSWCD Area Director Tom Spellmire, who passed unexpectedly during the summer of 2013. Tom's passion for conservation was evident as he met with constituents, local, state and federal agency officials and elected officials, and so many more.

Tom firmly believed in leadership training. Each year, he would contribute his personal funds, his time and other resources to help further develop supervisors through various programs and training opportunities.

So experience dynamic sessions, enhance your confidence, and expand your reach locally, statewide and nationally by participating in the Tom Spellmire Academy of Conservation Leadership at the upcoming Annual Conservation Partnership Meeting, at Summer Supervisors School and/or other specially created training sessions!

To register, simply register at www.ofswcd.org for the Annual Conservation Partnership and/or Summer Supervisor School meeting!

To learn more, contact the OFSWCD at 614.784.1900



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Conservation Districts
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This program was created with the assistance and leadership from:



**Ohio State University Extension
and**



**Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources
Division of Soil & Water Resources**

Now Available to & Supported by:



OHIO FEDERATION OF SOIL AND
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Tom Spellmire Academy of Conservation Leadership

"The Leader in Promoting Natural Resources Stewardship to Enhance Ohio's Quality of Life"



Be LEADERS for Conservation!

Leadership and Advocacy

For 70 plus years, the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts has been a leader the field of conservation through the hard work, dedication and the grassroots efforts of supervisors, staff, and its' conservation partners. As a result, tremendous accomplishments have been made throughout Ohio in terms of practices, programs and funding, all focused on conservation stewardship.

Today's challenges are great for SWCDs throughout Ohio's 88 counties as a result of economic stress, rapidly changing land use, water quality, nutrient stewardship issues, and a renewed urgency to address energy needs. However, for Ohio to succeed in economic development, education, environmental stewardship, agriculture and energy production, and so much more, conservation must be a top priority!

To help address these challenges and to build towards future success, the OFSWCD's leadership academy was developed a few years ago with the assistance of both The Ohio State University and the ODNR, Division of Soil & Water Resources. This program was initially designed specifically for SWCD Supervisors, however, it is now open to our SWCD employees and conservation partners with stronger focus on day to day issues impacting districts, offering decision making tools, and providing better direction towards tomorrow's challenges.

It is our goal that this program will help develop or strengthen the skills necessary for one to be an effective leader and further improve our conservation advocacy efforts. Additionally, this program is designed to be cost effective and efficient in order to meet one's busy lifestyle.

"No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave." Calvin Coolidge

Academy Requirements

"Leadership is defined as having the ability to lead, guide, direct or influence."

The Tom Spellmire Academy of Conservation Leadership will take each participant on a journey through various courses specially designed to challenge the individual, improve one's understanding of current and future issues, and develop skills necessary to lead. Each participant will be required to complete **ten** courses offered. Within 3 years, the participant completing the courses will be recognized and "graduate" as a conservation leader during our Annual Conservation Partnership meeting or our Annual Summer Supervisor School Program.

Academy Classes

While programs may be refined from year to year, the classes will focus on the following areas:

- **New Supervisor Training**
- **Coaching and Mentoring**
- **Empowerment**
- **Ethics & Legal Responsibilities**
- **Financial Stewardship**
- **Managing the Effects of Change**
- **Collaboration Strategies**
- **Mission, Values, Purpose for Me & the Organization**
- **Stakeholder Identification & Development**
- **Systems Thinking & Strategic Planning**
- **Principles of Media Advocacy & Community Education**
- **Translating Policy into Structure & Programs**
- **Communication & Listening Skills**
- **Risk Taking**
- **Visioning in a Personal & Organizational Context**
- **Customer-focus & Continuous Quality Improvement**
- **Understanding Local, State & National Roles, Processes, & Regulations**

The Academy Costs What?!

The Tom Spellmire Academy of Conservation Leadership program is designed to allow all SWCD Supervisors, SWCD Employees and other partners to participate by attending the Annual Conservation Partnership Meeting and the OFSWCD Summer Supervisor School. Additional courses may be added to winter Area Meetings or other special meetings. All costs are covered through event registration, therefore, no additional funds are required by the participant!

How Do I Graduate?

To be eligible for Academy Graduation, **10** of 15+ courses must be completed. Training began in January of 2010. Records for meeting participants are maintained and updated yearly to track courses completed by each individual. Enough courses should be offered for an individual to graduate within a three-year period. Participants will sign a form during the training event to certify attendance. Once the required 10 courses have been met, the participant will be notified of graduation eligibility and scheduled for the next available graduation ceremony.



Why Participate?

Help make this organization be the best it can be! Leadership and advocacy skills are critical to reaching conservation goals, challenges and opportunities today and in the future! Plus, this program will help build confidence, networking, and even lead to future career development opportunities.

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader. "

John Quincy Adams