

# “Drought-Run-About” Conservation Obstacle Course...

## EDUCATION *public relations*



The “Drought-Run-About” was created by the Upper Big Blue NRD in 2007. The concept was to design a geographical obstacle course charting the movement of water from the Pacific Ocean to the State of Nebraska. Two competitive groups of participants begin parallel at the Pacific Ocean Zone each filling a baking pan full of water. The object is to carry this water through the arid Desert Zone of California (tires), through the Mountain Pass Zone (play tunnels), over the Rocky Mountains (hay bales), and begin depositing varying amounts of water in Municipal Zones to satisfy the water users east of the Rockies in Denver, Fort Collins, and Colorado Springs. Being careful not to spill water, the idea is then to move into Wyoming and fill up several reservoirs before entering into Nebraska. As the two groups cross the Nebraska state line, they are met by separate team members bringing water up from the Gulf of Mexico Zone to fill their pans which have exhausted water due to satisfying water users and waste (spilling of water). This recharge from the Gulf will carry the two groups into Nebraska, where water is deposited in prescribed amounts in the Reservoir Zone and Agricultural and Irrigation Use Zones. The teams then cross the finish line for a final deposit. The team with the most water at the end of the course is deemed the winner.

This exercise emphasizes the grand scale that water must traverse geographically before arriving to Nebraska. This “traveling” water is considered a precious commodity and should be treated as such.

### “Drought-Run-About” Educational Hands-On Learning 2007-2012 EVENT SUMMARY

Event Date	Venue/Location	Miles Traveled (Round-Trip)	Attendance Figures
September 5-6, 2007 (Wednesday-Thursday)	Water Jamboree-Liberty Cove (Lawrence, NE)	462 154 x 3 travel days Set-up/tear-down	824
October 27-28, 2007 (Saturday-Sunday)	Prairie Loft (Hastings, NE)	128	67
June 25, 2008 (Wednesday)	UNL Extension-Adams County @ Morton School (Hastings, NE)	122	42
August 20, 2008 (Wednesday)	UNL Extension-Adams County @ Alcott School (Hastings, NE)	124	37
September 9-10, 2009 (Wednesday-Thursday)	Water Jamboree-Liberty Cove (Lawrence, NE)	462 154 x 3 travel days Set-up/tear-down	819
September 20-21, 2011 (Tuesday-Wednesday)	Water Jamboree-Liberty Cove (Lawrence, NE)	462 154 x 3 travel days Set-up/tear-down	830
<b>TOTALS:</b>	6 events	1,760 miles	2,619 participants

