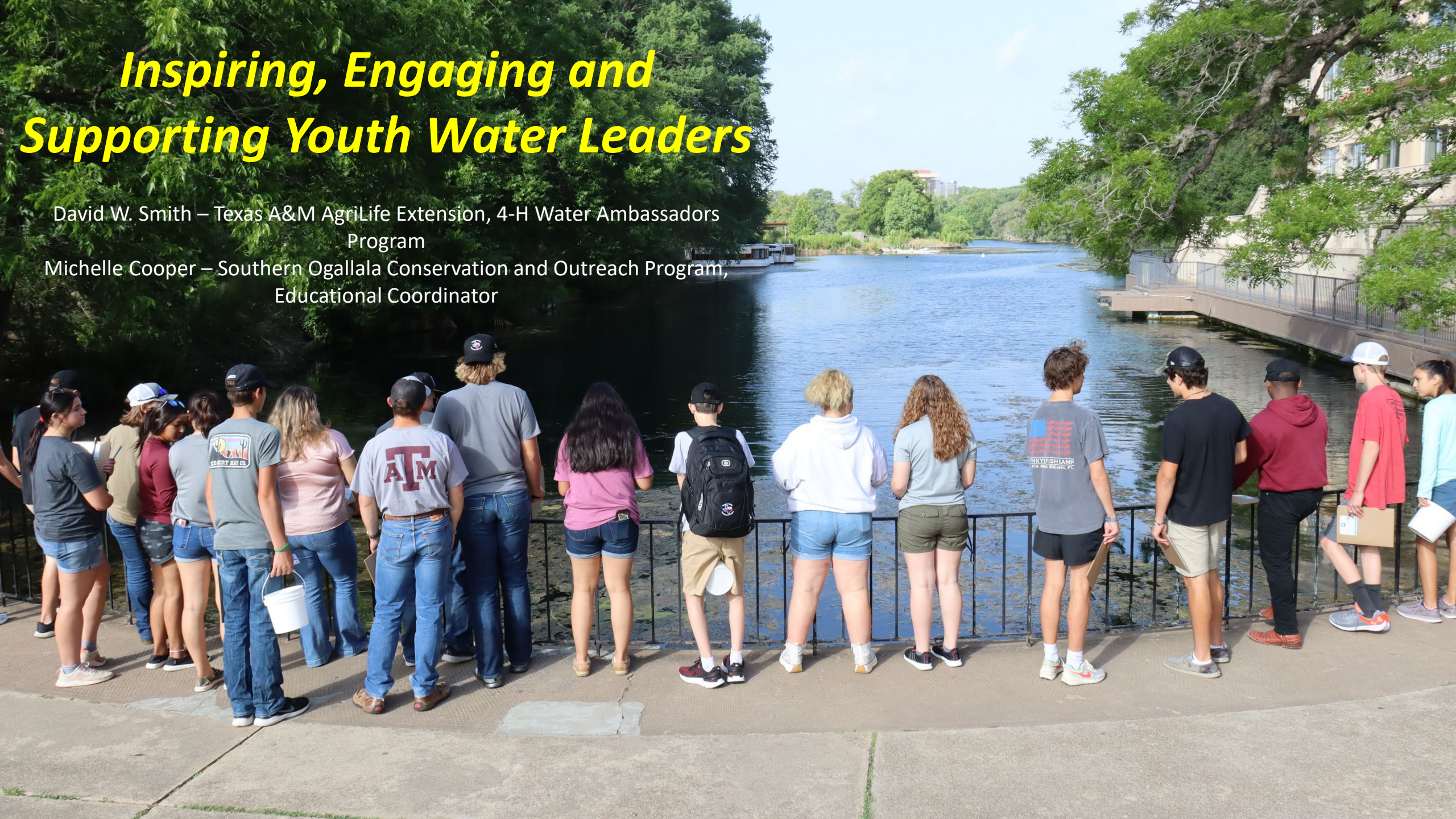


Inspiring, Engaging and Supporting Youth Water Leaders

David W. Smith – Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, 4-H Water Ambassadors
Program

Michelle Cooper – Southern Ogallala Conservation and Outreach Program,
Educational Coordinator




THE INSPIRATION

Leadership
Service
Recognition
Career Exploration
Scholarships
Experiential Learning
Fellowship
FUN



THE ENGAGEMENT



Personal connections
High expectations
Real-world applications
Shared backgrounds
Meaning and purpose
Envision a path forward

FUN

THE SUPPORT



Provide opportunities
for learning
Provide a pathway for
collaboration
Provide incentives for
participation
Recognize success
MAKE IT FUN

THE CHALLENGES

A group of eight young people, likely teenagers or young adults, are sitting on a large, light-colored rock formation. They are dressed in casual summer clothing like t-shirts, shorts, and caps. The background shows a calm lake with greenish water and a forested shoreline under bright sunlight. The scene is outdoors and appears to be a recreational spot.

Time commitment
Competing opportunities
Motivation
Maturity
Perspective
Evolving interests
External support
IS IT FUN?

THE IMPACT



Engages the senses
Broaden perspective
Foster appreciation
Career exposure
Build relationships
Add the “why” to the
“what”

HARVESTING

HARVEST RAINWATER?

- 💧 Saves you money by reducing your water bill
- 💧 Reduces demand on your water supply
- 💧 Makes efficient use of a valuable resource
- 💧 Better for plants because it is free of salts & other minerals that harm root growth
- 💧 Reduces flooding, erosion & the contamination of surface water with sediments, fertilizer & pesticide in rainfall runoff

"I wish I had done this when I was their age."



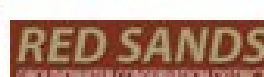
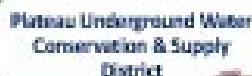
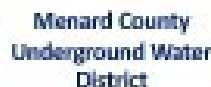
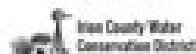
ALL 2022-2023 4-H WATER AMBASSADORS



Source: diymaps.net (c)

TEXAS A&M
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Thank You Sponsors!



Mid-East Texas Groundwater Conservation District

Hill Country Groundwater Conservation District

Lower Rio Grande Valley Water District Managers Association

Brush Country Groundwater Conservation District

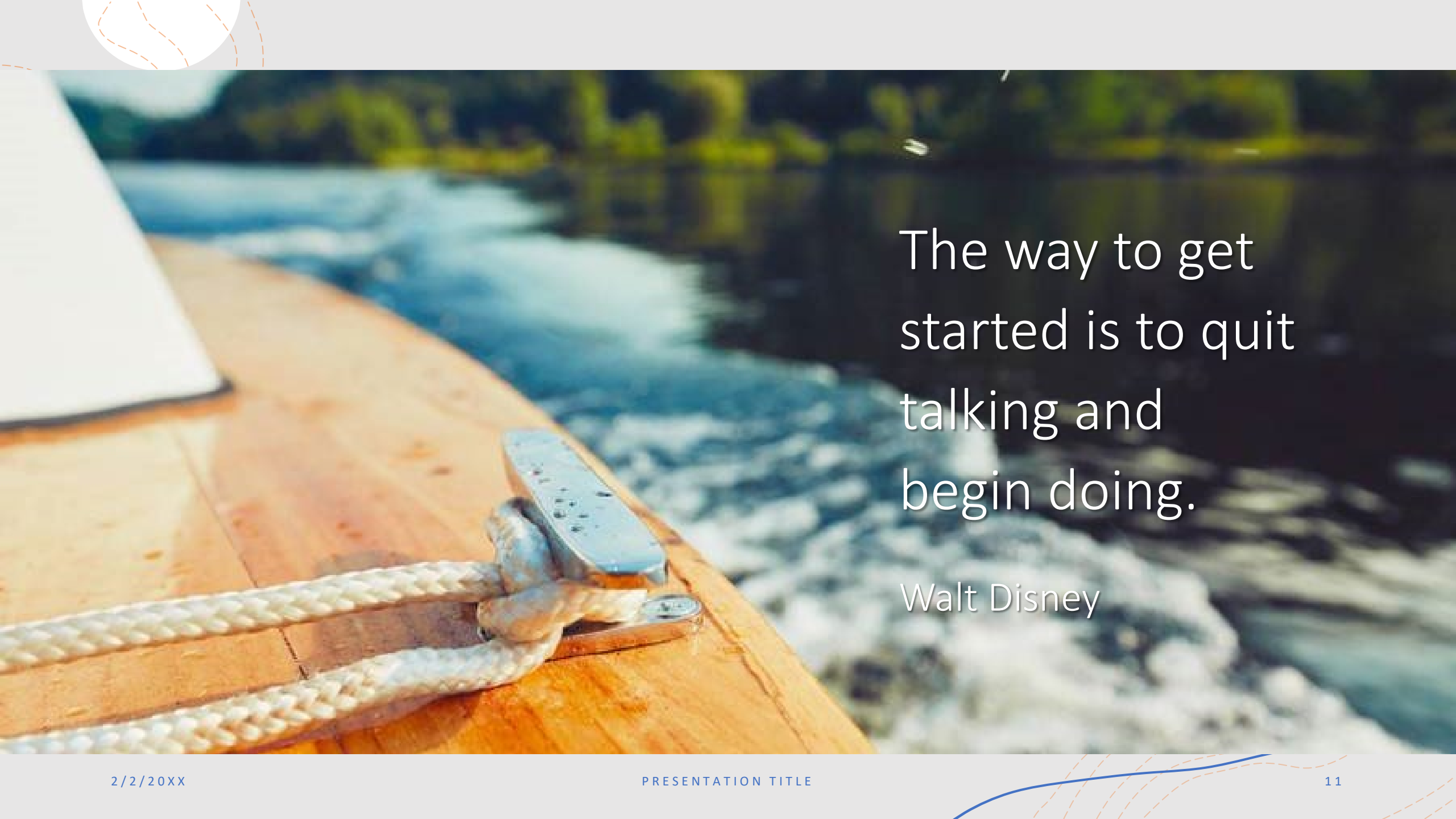
Inspiring, Engaging, and Supporting Youth Water Leaders

Michelle Cooper

Southern Ogallala Conservation &
Outreach Program (SOCOP)

Sandy Land UWCD, South Plains UWCD
and Llano Estacado UWCD





The way to get
started is to quit
talking and
begin doing.

Walt Disney

How to Connect:

- Visit with local JH and HS science and Ag classes
- Present at a 4H or FFA meeting
- Be visible in the community – volunteer
- Place articles in the local newspaper; talk on the radio
- Create a Facebook or social media page to highlight your program & other events you participate in
- Go direct – ask kids whose parents you know if their child would be willing to give it a try!
- Get your GCD to cover the cost so students/parents aren't out ANY money!
- Facilitate current ambassadors – be a “mom-ager” . . .
- BEG! Seriously – ask a student who you think might be a good fit . . . Even if they aren't in 4H or FFA they can participate & join
- Keep asking . . . Keep reaching out . . . Be excited about the program – energy is contagious!

