Science Societies

SSSA K-12 Outreach Committee: Sharing ideas that work!

December 12, 2025

Figure 1. At the “Saturday With a Scientist” event in Salt Lake City, UT, SSSA K-12 Committee member Wale Adewunmi talks with visitors about the “Soil Your Undies” activity. Photo by Liz Gillispie.

The SSSA K-12 Committee was quite active in 2025. Learn about all of the activities over the last year and what to expect in 2026.

The SSSA K-12 Committee is launching a semi-regular *CSA News* column reflecting on our outreach actions and providing ideas and inspiration for others to share their passion for soils, crops, and agronomy with general and K-12 audiences. Each column will highlight a project or an idea that has been successfully implemented while including the challenges and opportunities we came across while doing so.

The SSSA K-12 Committee was quite active in 2025! Our teacher grant program awarded $500 grants to 10 teachers to purchase supplies to teach soil science topics. We attended the National Science Teaching Association's annual conference on science education where we tabled and hosted a workshop. At our table, we chatted with more than 350 visitors, and our workshop drew 40 participants.

We hosted a "Saturday with a Scientist" event (Figure 1) in Salt Lake City, UT where we had hundreds of visitors of all ages interact with fun activities related to soils. We hosted two multi-hour workshops for teachers: (1) a full-day workshop in St. Paul, MN (Figure 2) and (2) a half-day workshop at the CANVAS meeting in Salt Lake City.

Figure 2. K-12 teacher in-service day at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Photo by Susan Chapman.

We updated our soils4teachers.org website to include a webpage on the much-sought out topic of soil horizons and a page on liquefaction/quicksand and added new activities. You may have noticed that we were sold out of our *Soil! Get the Inside Scoop* book, which posed an opportunity to update it. The new edition of the book is now available! Over the course of the year, we will share details on the above-mentioned activities (and more) and offer suggestions for replication.

All of the above projects could not have been completed without the enthusiasm and talents of those who serve on the K-12 Committee. Consider joining us by contacting Susan Chapman, Director of Special Projects.

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