What kind of people become soil scientists?

Those who
• have a love of science
• enjoy working outdoors
• have an enthusiasm for maps and relationships in nature
• desire to be integral in environmental decisions related to soil conservation, land use, water quality, or waste management
• have a willingness to communicate their knowledge about soils and the environment to all aspects of our society

People like you.

Career Paths in Soil Science

Start by being part of an Envirothon Team!

Education Research Mapping Conservation Environmental Consulting Agronomic Consulting Field & Lab Technician

A soil scientist’s job may involve:
• conducting research in public and private research institutions
• managing soils for crop production, forest products and erosion control management.
• teaching in colleges and universities
• predicting the effect of land management options on natural resources
• advising land managers of capabilities and limitations of soils (e.g., timber sales, watershed rehabilitation projects, transportation planning, soil productivity, military maneuvers, recreation development)
• recommending soil management programs
• helping to design hydrologic plans in suburban areas
• evaluating nutrient and water availability to crops
• managing soils for landscape design, mine reclamation, and site restoration
• assessing environmental hazards
• regulating the use of land and soil resources by private and public interests

Skills and Knowledge Needed

Knowledge
Biology
Chemistry
Mathematics
Education/Training
Computers & Electronics
Communications & Media
Geography
Physics

Work Styles
Attention to Detail
Integrity
Initiative
Dependability
Independence
Persistence
Adaptability
Innovation

Skills/Abilities
Science (rules & methods)
Active Listening
Critical Thinking

Communication Skills
Judgment & Decision Making
Reading Comprehension
Complex Problem Solving
Active Learning
Systems Analysis
Writing
Reasoning
Observation

Sources/Career Sites

O’Net website: http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/19-1013.00
Soil Science Society of America
www.soils.org/careers
www.soils4teachers.org
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