

Purpose: The StormReady Supporter application requires two members of key personnel in the building/system to be SkyWarn Storm Spotters and to go under training biannually. If students are included, this activity will allow students to engage in the 21st Century Skill of Communication.

Instructions for Teacher: To find out about local SkyWarn training classes, you can go to www.weather.gov/mpx/skywarn or www.metroskywarn.org. However, classes are generally available in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area between March and May. Contact the office at 951-361-6671 to learn more about SkyWarn training.

SkyWarn is a program designed by the NWS to train emergency managers, first responders, and the weather-interested basics on storm development, storm spotting, and storm safety. It is designed to be accessible to most people and no specialized training in meteorology is required. SkyWarn spotters range in age from teenagers through senior citizens and their reports are critical to NWS operations and help provide NWS meteorologists with real-time data and reports.

SkyWarn training should be given to decision makers in the building, such as facilities' managers, the principal, the superintendent, and athletic directors. As the teacher doing the StormReady in a Box program, it is suggested that you also participate. In addition, you can also encourage other teachers (especially science teachers) to get trained.

A great way to enhance this experience for your students is to encourage students to join the decision makers and faculty at SkyWarn. This can be a great opportunity to enhance the learning experience for exceptionally motivated weather interested students.

After the Activity: After the training, be sure to record the dates and titles of the key personnel who were SkyWarn trained. Also, denote if any additional faculty, staff, or students went through the SkyWarn training, as well. Also, identify who performed the training.

For More Information: See the websites above or go to the SkyWarn Spotters guide document in the "Reference Documents" folder to learn more about SkyWarn spotting and the basics of thunderstorms. Please note that the SkyWarn Spotters guide may be slightly above a Junior High School reading level, but DOES NOT require specialized meteorological knowledge.

