



Youth Conservation Camp

2019 Annual Report



2019 Highlights



"The lessons and hands on experiences were awesome"

For 43 years, the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Educational Foundation has sponsored a week-long summer conservation camp for Virginia high school students on the campus of Virginia Tech.

This year, the program brought together 44 enthusiastic and interested students from 24 Soil and Water Conservation Districts for a week of learning about Virginia's natural resources from conservation professionals.

Most of the instruction was hands-on and outdoors. According to 2019 camper evaluations, lessons and activities that impacted campers most centered around Best Management Practices, electrofishing, beekeeping, veterinary school, canoeing, and water quality.

The YCC Experience

Day 1

Topography & Watersheds

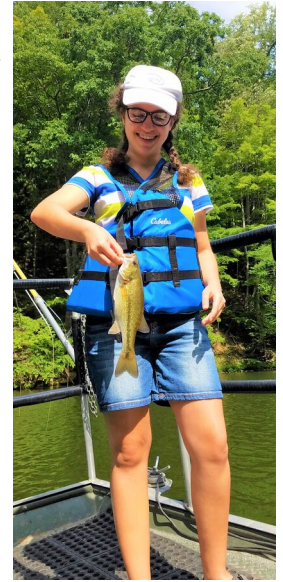
- What is a watershed?
- Map your watershed



Day 2

Claytor Lake State Park

- Lake ecology
- Fisheries management
- Land use planning & watersheds
- Tree ID Hike



Day 3

Cascades, College of Natural

Resources & Environment

- Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources & Environment Station Exploration
- Hike to the Cascades Waterfall
- Smithfield Foods Sustainability Talk



Day 4

Kentland Farms

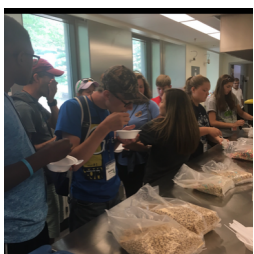
- Agricultural Best Management Practices
- Water Quality Testing
- Tour Dairy Science Facility
- Soil & Rainfall Simulator
- Beekeeping Demonstration



Day 5

Virginia Tech Football Stadium, Brooks Forest Products Center, VT College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

- Tour Lane Stadium, Turfgrass Management
- Tour Thomas M. Brooks Forest Products Center
- Food Science Lab, Groundwater Quality, Plant ID
- Stormwater Best Management Practices
- Mock Virginia Dominion Energy Envirothon



DAY 6

The New River & Virginia - Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine

- Tour of the Veterinary School
- Canoe the New River
- Shoreline Erosion



2019 Camp Staff

The Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts thanks all staff, including counselors, instructors, and volunteers, who made Youth Conservation Camp possible.

CAMP DIRECTOR

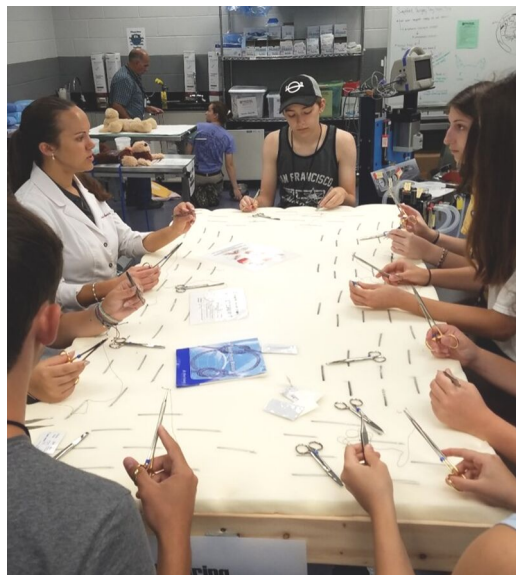
Bonnie Mahl VASWCD



Counselors

Emily Gibbs	Piedmont SWCD
Allyson Ponn	Lord Fairfax SWCD
Brandon Blevins	Clinch Valley SWCD
Stephen Jasenak	Virginia Department of Forestry
Melissa Waller	Halifax SWCD
Joe Gerdes	James River SWCD
Brianna Moring	James River SWCD
Kelly Snoddy	Peter Francisco SWCD
Michael Trop	John Marshall SWCD
Cory Hoar	Virginia Dare SWCD
Tim Miller	Mountain Castles SWCD
Kevin McLean	VASWCD
Denney Collins	Virginia Dept. of Conservation & Recreation

"Before this camp I thought there was nothing I could do to help the environment, but now I realize that there are things I can do even within my neighborhood."



YCC Instructors & Volunteers

Bill Kittrell, Sarah Colletti,	Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
Tiffany Leach,	
John Copeland	
Shane Brannock	Virginia Tech Dairy Center
Chris Barbour	Skyline SWCD
Cynthia Hancock	Skyline SWCD
Staff	Virginia Tech Kentland Farm
Dr. Kline	Virginia Tech Sustainable Biomaterials
Emerson Pulliam, & Staff	Virginia Tech Turfgrass Management

"This past week has been one of the best of my life."

Jerry Borger	New River Valley Beekeepers Association
Becky Barlow	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
John Gray Williams	Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources and Environment
Alyssa Hamill	Smithfield Foods
Dr. Edwards, Mel Kegley	Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine
Erin Ling, Dr. Sean Askew,	Virginia Tech College of Agriculture & Life Sciences
Dr. Joe Eifert,	
Dr. Susan Sumner	



2019 YCC Sponsors

Thank you to our sponsors for financial and "in-kind" contributions that make YCC possible.

Soil & Water

Conservation Districts

Appomattox River SWCD
Blue Ridge SWCD
Clinch Valley SWCD
Colonial SWCD
Daniel Boone SWCD
Eastern Shore SWCD
Hanover/Caroline SWCD
Henricopolis SWCD
Holston River SWCD
John Marshall SWCD
Loudoun SWCD
Mountain Castles SWCD
New River SWCD
Northern Neck SWCD
Northern Virginia SWCD
Peanut SWCD
Peter Francisco SWCD
Piedmont SWCD
Prince William SWCD
Robert E. Lee SWCD
Southside SWCD
Thomas Jefferson SWCD
Three Rivers SWCD
Virginia Dare SWCD

Agencies & Institutions

Virginia Department of Forestry
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
Virginia Tech Dairy Science Center
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Virginia Tech Sustainable Bio materials-Brooks Forest Production Center
Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine
Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources
Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Business & Industry

Blacksburg Mellow Mushroom
Smithfield Foods

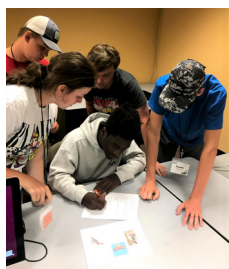
Foundations, Associations, Organizations, & Individuals

Rotary Club of South
Richmond Foundation
South Richmond Rotary
Virginia Chapter of Soil & Water Conservation Society
Virginia Conservation Assistance Program
Virginia Farm Bureau
Virginia Forestry Educational Foundation
Virginia Lakes & Watersheds Association

"Hiking to the cascades and shock fishing were really fun"



"I got to extend my knowledge... like the impact mussels have on watersheds, topography maps, water quality testing using shock fishing and much more!"



Announcing 2020YCC

Next year, Youth Conservation Camp will be held in July 2020. It is open to students who are in the 9th - 12th grade in the 2019/20 school year. Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District for the application and deadline.

Visit vaswcd.org/conservation-camp for more information about the 2020 YCC.