Youth Conservation Camp
2019 Annual Report

2019 Highlights

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 lessons and hands on experiences were awesome"
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
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 Morring  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

YCC Instructors & Volunteers
Bill Kittrell, Sarah Colletti, Tiffany Leach, John Copeland Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
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
Jerry Borger
Becky Barlow  New River Valley Beekeepers Association
John Gray Williams  Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Alyssa Hamill  Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources and Environment
Dr. Edwards, Mel Kegley  Smithfield Foods
Erin Ling, Dr. Sean Askew, Dr. Joe Eifert, Dr. Susan Sumner  Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine
Virginia Tech College of Agriculture & Life Sciences

"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."

"This past week has been one of the best of my life."
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
Loudon 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 2020 YCC

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.