

BALTIMORE HARBOR PROGRAM

Meeting Location: The National Aquarium, 501 East Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

CBF's Baltimore Harbor Program focuses on the Chesapeake Bay as a beautiful and productive ecosystem that is often stressed by a vital economic system. Using the Port of Baltimore and the Patapsco River as our classrooms, this program explores the complex and fascinating interrelationships between the estuary and its most demanding users aboard Chesapeake Bay Foundation's 46-foot workboat, the *Snow Goose*.

All of CBF's boat programs are equipped with state-of-the-art water quality monitoring equipment. This allows groups to generate data instantaneously, including pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, salinity, and other indicators to build a complete picture of the health of the river. Participants can then compare their findings to the data of professional Bay scientists through an on-board wireless laptop.

By using a variety of field study techniques, participants will develop a keener awareness of the urban environment and how it interacts with a natural ecosystem. CBF staff will demonstrate the importance of the port as an economic lifeline for the state of Maryland, and help participants appreciate the life cycles and needs of the thousands of birds, fish, crabs, oysters, and other organisms that share the river. Participants will reflect

on the various issues confronting the Bay and its users, and some of the necessary compromises which must be made to ensure the survival of both. At the conclusion of their field experience, participants understand the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem and their ability to influence it.

PROGRAM CONCEPTS

Below is a brief list of some of the concepts and activities that may be emphasized during your field program. The staff of the Baltimore Harbor Program will work with you during the pre-program phone call to tailor your experience so that it complements your classroom content.

- Human influences on the Bay ecosystem
- Trawling
- Food webs
- Biological sampling
- Watershed geography
- Chemical water quality tests
- Oyster dredging

SAMPLE PROGRAM

For grades four and up. Maximum capacity is 28 participants (includes chaperones).

To apply for a field experience, visit our website at cbf.org/apply. For inquiries, contact the CBF Scheduling Department at 410/268-8816.

- Arrive at the *Snow Goose*
- Introductions, mapping activity
- Water-quality testing
- Biological sampling
- Lunch
- Dredging
- Oyster investigations
- Trawling
- Wrap up
- Return to dock



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION
Saving a National Treasure