

POTOMAC RIVER PROGRAM

Meeting Location: Gang Plank Marina, 600 Water St. SW, Washington, D.C. 20024



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Potomac River Program gives participants an on-the-water view of the nation's capital and its connection to the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Aboard CBF's workboat, the *Bea Hayman Clark*, visitors experience how the aquatic worlds of the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers are intimately linked to daily city life.

As tributaries of the Bay, these waterways are a priceless biological resource, providing clean drinking water as well as electricity. But our use of the land has a marked effect on their health.

During the Potomac River field program, CBF instructors weave together strands from various disciplines to give new perspectives on the watershed. Discussions on water quality get a hands-on component as we travel from one site to the next, investigating storm drains, garbage, electricity, and fish. We discover what actually lives in the water, what stops us from seeing to the bottom, and what goes on along the river banks.

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.



PROGRAM CONCEPTS

The following is a list of concepts and activities that may be emphasized during your field experience on the Potomac. CBF staff will work with you during your pre-program call to tailor your experience so that it complements your classroom content.

- physical orientation
- physical measurements
- biological survey
- interrelationships
- human impact
- water-quality testing

SAMPLE PROGRAM

- Greeting and safety talk at Gang Plank Marina
- Depart dock
- Introductions and mapping activity in Washington Channel
- Physical survey of the Anacostia River
- Biological survey of the Anacostia (may include a plankton tow, trawling for fish)
- Water-quality testing of the Anacostia (may include tests for dissolved oxygen, nitrates, phosphates, pH, bottom sample, water clarity, salinity, and temperature)
- Lunch
- Comparison study of the Potomac River to the Anacostia River (includes physical survey, predictions, biological survey and water-quality testing)
- Investigation of effluent from Blue Plains Waste Water Treatment Plant and Pepco Power Plant
- Wrap up
- Return to Gang Plank Marina

For grades four and up. Maximum capacity is 30 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.



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