

# ELISABETH REED CARTER VIRGINIA CANOE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM



The Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Elisabeth Reed Carter Virginia Canoe Environmental Education Program is a one-day, hands-on, active educational experience that gives students the opportunity to investigate and explore a local waterway and learn about its connection to the Chesapeake Bay. Students discover the complex relationships between land-use practices and Chesapeake Bay tributaries as they explore by canoe. They also learn about issues that affect the creeks and rivers of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

On a typical Virginia field experience, participants canoe on tidal or flat water, getting a close-up view of one part of the larger Bay. CBF instructors utilize activities to deepen participants' understanding of local ecosystems. These give relevance and depth to the classroom curriculum, and correlate to the Virginia SOLs. Our goal is to actively engage students and promote higher order thinking skills by learning through experience.

CBF's program staff provides opportunities for careful observation, data collection, analysis, and synthesis of information gathered during the field study experience. Instructors encourage students to reflect on the complexity of the watershed, and to see themselves as part of the solution. Field curricula are tailored to group dynamics, time, and weather.

## PROGRAM SITE LOCATIONS

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1. First Landing State Park, Virginia Beach
2. Chickahominy Riverfront Park, James City
3. Morris Creek Canoe Access, Charles City
4. Harrison Lake Fish Hatchery, Charles City
5. Deep Bottom Boat Landing, Henrico County
6. White Bank State Park, Colonial Heights
7. Pocahontas State Park, Colonial Heights
8. Mattaponi at Walkerton, King and Queen Counties
9. Aylett Creek, King William County
10. Zoar State Forest, King William County
11. Hicks Landing, Caroline County
12. Mason Neck State Park, Fairfax County
13. Rosier Creek, Westmoreland County
14. Fox Hill Boat Ramp, Hampton

## PROGRAM CONCEPTS

Each canoe program is tailored to your needs and designed to enhance your classroom studies. A CBF educator will call in advance of your field experience to provide details, confirm meeting time and location, and answer questions on what to bring, how to dress, and what SOLs should be targeted. Sample topics include:

- estuarine food chain
- sedimentation, eutrophication
- point source/non-point source pollution
- fisheries management
- livelihoods on the Bay
- salt marsh characteristics
- oyster reef ecology
- mapping skills
- watershed dynamics
- conservation behaviors
- forest creatures and habitats
- environmentally conscious construction and development

## SAMPLE PROGRAM

*Times may be adjusted to suit your schedule*

For grades six and up. Maximum capacity is 23/26 participants (including chaperones).

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

- Introduction
- Gear, safety, and paddle instruction
- Paddling and exploration
- Lunch
- Seining, water-quality testing, and mapping
- Load gear, wrap up
- Depart



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