The Chesapeake Bay Foundation’s James River Boat Program offers students a floating classroom to explore a variety of locations that have historical ties to the health of the river: plantations, heavy industry, and wildlife preserves. Aboard a 42-foot Bay workboat, participants explore the James and its tributaries, sample aquatic life, and perform simple water-quality tests. They learn about the effects of human activities on the estuary, and deepen their knowledge of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

CBF’s one-day, hands-on field curricula are designed to correlate to the Virginia SOLs, to help teachers get the most from our programs. Our goal is to actively engage students and promote higher order thinking skills for problem solving.

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**

Here are some concepts and grade-specific activities that may be emphasized during your CBF field experience. Each program is tailored to your needs and designed to enhance your classroom studies. CBF staff will work with you prior to your visit to ensure that your experiences complement your curriculum.

- Estuarine food chain
- Fisheries management
- Oyster reef ecology
- Conservation behaviors
- Crab potting
- Sedimentation, over-nutrification
- Livelihoods on the Bay
- Mapping skills
- Water quality testing
- Oyster dredging
- Point source/ non-point source pollution
- Wetlands characteristics
- Watershed dynamics
- Trawling for fish
- Bay history and geography

**SAMPLE PROGRAM**

For grades four and up. Maximum capacity is 28 participants (including 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.

James River Boat Program: 804/512-0443

- Arrive and board boat
- Safety briefing and set sail
- Industry’s impact on the environment
- Westover Plantation: maps, history, geography, Bay issues
- Lunch
- Crab pots and Bay fisheries
- Explore tidal freshwater marsh
- Water-quality testing and aquatic organisms
- Otter trawl, adaptation, and diversity
- Return to Dock