The Chesapeake Bay Foundation’s skipjack, the Stanley Norman, was built in 1902 in Salisbury, Maryland. It is a single-masted, Bay-built sailing vessel designed to harvest oysters. The skipjack is a part of Bay history and an excellent platform for students to learn about oysters, the life of a Chesapeake Bay waterman, and Bay-related issues of the past, present, and future. In the late 1880s, at the height of commercial oystering, there were close to 1,000 skipjacks on the Bay. Now, there are less than ten. The skipjack fleet on the Chesapeake Bay is the last fleet of boats in the United States working under sail.

While on the Stanley Norman for their one-day field experience, students will help navigate the ship, dredge for oysters, serve as ship crew, and explore the Chesapeake Bay. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation’s Skipjack Environmental Education Program provides participants with the opportunity to have a real Bay experience on a historic Bay vessel. In addition to having fun, participants gain an understanding of the intrinsic value of the Chesapeake Bay.

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 used on a typical field experience on CBF’s Stanley Norman skipjack. Please note that the location of the program as well as the weather can affect planned activities.

- map reading
- watershed and estuary concepts
- land use
- human impacts
- Bay history
- fishing (trawl net, crab and eel pots)
- creative writing or art work
- sailing
- dredging
- chemical/physical water-quality tests

For grades five and up. Maximum capacity for ADULT GROUPS is 22 total participants. Maximum capacity for STUDENT GROUPS is 24 total participants (including teachers/chaperones).

To apply for a field experience, visit our website at cbf.org/apply. For inquiries, contact the CBF Scheduling Department at 800/445-5572.