The Chesapeake Bay Foundation’s Merrill Center Education Program makes use of an exceptional location—between the shores of the Bay, the woods of Bay Ridge, the tidal marsh of Black Walnut Creek, and fields of tall native grasses—to present a one-day, hands-on experience of the Bay ecosystem.

Students will spend their day outdoors, learning to assess the health of an ecosystem by a variety of means—testing the water using water quality monitoring equipment, making informed observations, and surveying live organisms. Participants will also learn how humans both positively and negatively affect their surroundings.

The Merrill Center itself has been ranked as one of the world’s greenest buildings. It serves as CBF’s headquarters and is a model of sustainable architecture and has won a Platinum Award from the U.S. Green Building Council. An exemplar of the minimal impact that even large capacity office buildings can have on the environment, it is constructed with reused and renewable building materials, uses an energy-efficient heating and cooling system, and minimizes water demand with composting toilets. Participants in the Merrill Center Program have the option of exploring and learning more about environmentally-conscious architecture.

**PROGRAM CONCEPTS**

Here are some of the concepts that may be emphasized during your program. The staff of the Merrill Center Education Program will work with you prior to your visit in order to ensure that the field experiences complements your classroom curriculum.

- Estuarine food chain
- Fisheries management
- Oyster reef ecology
- Conservation behaviors
- Sedimentation, eutrophication
- Livelihoods on the Bay
- Mapping skills
- Forest creatures and habitats
- Point source/non-point source pollution
- Salt marsh characteristics
- Watershed dynamics
- Environmentally-conscious construction and development

**SAMPLE PROGRAM**

For grades four and up. Maximum capacity: 30 (single groups) or 60 (double groups) (including chaperones).

To apply for a field experience, visit our website at cbf.org/apply. For inquiries, contact the CBF Scheduling Department at +10/268-8816.