Environmental Education
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SAVING A NATIONAL TREASURE

Founded in 1967, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is the only regional conservation organization working to restore the Chesapeake Bay and surrounding watershed through education, advocacy, litigation, and restoration.

CBF leads one of the largest, longest running field-based environmental education programs in the country, serving over one million students. We work for effective, science-based solutions to the pollution degrading the Bay and its rivers and streams.

CBF’s vision is a restored Bay with healthy rivers and clean water; sustainable populations of crabs, fish, and oysters; thriving water-based and agricultural economies; and a legacy of success for our children and grandchildren.

To learn more about CBF, visit cbf.org.

OUR COMMITMENT TO SAFETY

We are committed to the safety of all our participants and, as such, we ensure that our educators have professional certifications and annual training to lead safe field programs. All of our educators receive the following certifications:

- Wilderness First Responder Medical Certification
- American Canoe Association Basic River Rescue and Moving Water Certification
- Infant/Child/Adult CPR
- Boater Safety
- Community Water Safety

All boats and facilities receive frequent inspections and are maintained to the highest standard, and all CBF captains hold a U.S. Coast Guard license.
CBF is committed to growing connections between students, teachers, and school administrators to their environment.

Whether through art, math, history, science, or social studies, our approach inspires students to engage in local environmental issues.

To learn more about how our programs enhance classroom curricula, please visit cbf.org/mw ee for our Educator’s Guide to the Meaningful Watershed Education Experience.
Our educators reach students in the most authentic way, by facilitating student-centered investigations that may involve paddling on the river, pulling a dredge on an oyster reef, or taking samples in a marsh.

Exploring is more than a fun way to learn. Gaining experience in the field is a process that creates a lasting impact by actively engaging learners, the next generation of critical thinkers.

CBF’s environmental education programs include boat, canoe, green building, and multi-day investigations. Programs are offered across the Chesapeake Bay watershed in Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. For more information about program locations, visit cbf.org/apply.
BOAT INVESTIGATIONS

CBF’s floating classrooms allow students to use scientific data collection and traditional watermen’s techniques to discover the health of their local river.

- Baltimore Harbor (Baltimore and Havre de Grace, Maryland)
- Hampton Roads (Hampton Roads, Virginia)
- James River (Hopewell, Virginia)
- Potomac River (Washington, D.C.)
- Skipjack (Annapolis, Baltimore, and St. Michael’s, Maryland)
- Arthur Sherwood (Annapolis, Maryland)

CANOE INVESTIGATIONS

CBF’s Environmental Education canoe programs provide participants a unique and exciting perspective to gain a deeper understanding of their connection to local streams, tributaries, and wetlands.

- Susquehanna Watershed (rivers of Pennsylvania)
- Elisabeth Reed Carter (tidal rivers of Virginia east of Route 95)
- Virginia Watershed (non-tidal rivers of Virginia west of Route 95)

GREEN BUILDINGS INVESTIGATIONS

Green Building Investigations explore concepts of sustainability through a comparison of different habitats to gain a greater understanding of the Chesapeake ecosystem, particularly human impact on the health of the Bay. A canoe component is also available for grades six and up only.

- Brock Environmental Center (Virginia Beach, Virginia)
- Phillip Merrill Environmental Center (Annapolis, Maryland)

MULTI-DAY INVESTIGATIONS

Located in the heart of the Chesapeake Bay, participants spend three days and two nights on-location at one of our residential education centers—allowing for dynamic opportunities to study ecosystems, culture, fisheries, and economics in the largest estuary in the United States.

- Karen Noonan Center (Dorchester County, Maryland)
- Smith Island (Somerset County, Maryland)
- Fox Island (Accomack County, Virginia)
- Port Isobel (Accomack County, Virginia)

REGISTER ONLINE: CBF.ORG/APPLY
CBF works to advance environmental literacy and support classroom learning goals through our Chesapeake Classrooms teacher professional learning program, our Principals’ Leadership program, and our Teacher Environmental Literacy Leadership (TELL) network.

We partner with individual schools and school districts to promote a systemic approach to integrating hands-on, field-based Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs) into curricular programs.
CHESAPEAKE CLASSROOMS FOR TEACHERS

CBF’s teacher professional learning program, Chesapeake Classrooms, provides high-quality experiences that prepare K-12 teachers to increase student engagement, achievement, and stewardship by using the environment as the context. Chesapeake Classrooms uses the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) model to actively engage teachers in hands-on experiences in which core ideas and practices of multiple disciplines are applied to make sense of the relationships between the natural world and society. Each course is designed to support state and local educational standards in Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and/or the District of Columbia. Teacher participants are eligible to earn continuing certification or graduate credit.

Chesapeake Classrooms is supported by CBF’s Teacher Environmental Literacy Leaders’ (TELL) network, an established professional community of teacher leaders that participate in professional learning experiences with focus on content, pedagogical strategies, and leadership skills to support environmental literacy in their districts. TELL teacher leaders are ambassadors for environmental literacy, field-based learning, and watershed education.

PRINCIPALS’ ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP

Participants in CBF’s Principals’ Environmental Leadership spend three days at a CBF residential center, experiencing environmental education, learning from experts who have successfully implemented programs, and planning to integrate the environment into their school program. The program supports school administrators and other instructional leaders in developing environmental stewardship opportunities for their entire school community.

REGISTER ONLINE: CBF.ORG/CCSUMMER
The Student Leadership Program offers students opportunities to expand their knowledge of watershed issues through unforgettable outdoor field experiences and by training students to advocate for local environmental issues meaningful to them.

Working together with scientists, elected officials, farmers, restoration experts, and CBF educators, students lead others in action to improve the environmental health of their local communities.

Student applicants must be entering grades 9-12 and active in either their student government, FFA chapter, school eco-club, or an environmental organization.

LEARN MORE ONLINE:
CBF.ORG/STUDENTLEADERSHIP