

Teacher's Conservation Corner

John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District

2018 Summer Camps

John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District (JMSWCD) is seeking applicants for two conservation-oriented camps this summer.

Holiday Lake Forestry Camp is scheduled for June 19-24 at the Holiday Lake 4-H Center near Appomattox, Virginia. This camp is for students ages 13-16 who have an interest in forestry and natural resources. The cost to attend is \$85 for the week. Holiday Lake Forestry Camp is ideal for students to explore and experience activities in forestry and wildlife related careers and to experience hands on learning about natural resource conservation.

Students must be nominated for

Forestry camp by an adult such as a teacher, youth leader (scout, church, etc.), or a natural resource professional. Nomination forms are available at <http://dof.virginia.gov/forestry/camp/>. Nominations close on April 7.

The second camp is the Youth Conservation Camp, held July 9-15 on the campus of Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. This camp is for students in grades 9-12 (including students graduating in May or June).

Students will learn about fisheries, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife, and agricultural best management practices. Field trips include visits to Claytor Lake State Park, the Cas-

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Students at Forestry Camp test their skills in the Lumberjack Field Day. Photo: VA Dept. of Forestry.



Students at Youth Conservation Camp hold a catfish that they caught while electro-fishing with the Game Department.

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Summer Camps Cont.

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acades waterfall, and a canoe trip down the New River. A typical list of activities can be found [here](#).

The camp is free for the top two Fauquier County applicants and financial support may be available for other applicants. To apply for Youth Conservation

Camp, please fill out the application on the [District website](#).

Applications for Fauquier County residents are due to JMSWCD by 5:00pm on April 13. For more information on either camp, call 540-347-3120 x3 or email: johnmarshall.swcd@vaswcd.org.

Soil Studies Available

The District wants to make sure all 3rd graders have an opportunity to get the most out of their soil studies. John Marshall SWCD has soil sieves available for schools to borrow. Students can place a dry soil sample in the top compartment and shake it to their hearts content and observe the different size soil particles that filter thru the screens in each compartment. The District has five sets of sieves available to lend out to schools.



The District's Soil Tunnel is available for schools to use.

The District still has a supply of materials for teachers who would like the Soil Tube program (geared for third grade students) to

be conducted for their students (students will make a soil profile in a tube).



The District also has the Soil

Soil sieves can be used to separate out different sized particles of soil.

Tunnel available to bring to schools. This tunnel allows students to crawl through in order to see what it would be like if they were able to crawl underground.

If you have yet to study soils or you would like to give your students a review before the SOLs, contact Michael Trop at michael.trop@fauquiercounty.gov or call 540-316-6639.

Chesapeake Bay 101

Every few months, the Chesapeake Bay Program releases a short 3-5 minute video about different factors that affect the Bay. All videos can be found [here](#). The most recent video, titled "Agriculture," discusses the how agriculture in the Chesapeake Bay watershed affects the ecosystem and what farmers are doing better manage the land to reduce their impact on the Bay.