

Teacher's Conservation Corner

John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District

2019 Summer Camps

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

Camp Woods and Wildlife (formerly Holiday Lake Forestry Camp) is scheduled for June 17-22 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 Youth Conservation Camp, held July 7-13 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 swim and paddle in the New River near Virginia Tech.

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Summer Camps Cont.

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ades 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 May 1. For more information on either camp, call 540-316-6639 or email: michael.trop@fauquiercounty.gov.

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 four sets of sieves available to lend out to schools.

The District still has a supply of materials for teachers who would like the Soil Tube program (geared for

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

The District also has the 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.

From the Rappahannock, For the Rappahannock

On April 7, John Marshall SWCD and partners will be hosting a celebration of conservation at Marriott Ranch in Hume.

From 9am to 12pm, volunteer opportunities are available to help plant trees, and install a pollinator habitat or wildlife habitat structures. This work will provide habitat, decrease erosion, and help improve water quality. After working on projects, all volunteers are invited to join the afternoon celebration free of charge.

From 12 to 4pm, food will be served along with music

and activities. Tickets for the afternoon event are \$30 in advance or **FREE** if you participate in the morning volunteer activities. Children under 14 welcome at no charge.

We will have oysters from the Oyster Company of Virginia, barbecue, local wines and beers, live music, hay ride tours of the property and conservation practices, fish shocking demonstrations, and more!

Registration is required and available here: <https://www.riverfriends.org/event/from-the-rappahannock-for-the-rappahannock/>.