

Teacher's Conservation Corner

John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District

Forestry & Conservation Camps

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

Holiday Lake Forestry Camp is scheduled for June 15-20 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



Students at Youth Conservation Camp ride on a VA Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries boat to go electrofishing.

able at <http://dof.virginia.gov/forestry/camp/>. Nominations close on April 1.

The second camp is the Youth Conservation Camp, held July 12-18 on the campus of Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. This camp is for students in grades 9-12 (including students graduating in May/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 Cascades waterfall, and a canoe trip down the New River. The camp is free for the top two Fauquier County applicants and \$550 for all other applicants. To apply for Youth Conservation Camp, contact the John Marshall SWCD to get an application. For more information on either camp, call John Marshall SWCD at 540-347-3120 x3 or email: johnmarshall.swcd@vaswcd.org.



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

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Find Us On



Agriculture in the Classroom

The week of March 14-20 will be celebrated as National Agriculture Week with March 15 designated as National Ag Day. Agriculture is Virginia's largest industry and plays a very important part in both the economy and the way of life for residents of Fauquier County.

Ag in the Classroom offers K-12 agriculture-related lesson plans for teachers (in subject areas of health, science, math, language arts, and social studies) as well as professional development opportunities and grants to provide students with hands-on,



Agriculture in the Classroom works to educate Virginia's children about the importance of agriculture.

experiential learning about agriculture.

The information, lesson plans, grants, and professional development opportunities for teachers can be found on the [Ag in the Classroom website](#).

EnviroPlay Game

A new game has been developed by The Nature Generation, an Arlington, VA based non-profit dedicated to environmental education and stewardship. This game, called EnviroPlay quizzes students on their environmental knowledge. Topics that can be selected for quizzes include Energy,

Geology, Environmental Quality, and Water. The game has questions for students ranging from Kindergarten to Grade 12. A simple registration is required to play. The game is fun; however, it was only recently released, so you may encounter a bug or two in it. It can be accessed from [this link](#).

Still Time for Soil Studies

Some schools will study soils in late winter or spring and the District still has a supply of materials for teachers who want the Soil Tube program (geared for third grade students). The District also has the Soil Tunnel available to bring to schools. This tunnel allows students to see what it would be like if they were



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

able to crawl underground.

In addition to soil tubes, the District also has soil sieves. 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 to lend out to schools.

If you have yet to study soils or you want to give your students a review before the SOLs, contact Michael Trop at michael.trop@fauquiercounty.gov or call 540-347-3120 x114.