

DEAR PARENT,



Thank you for allowing your child to visit the world's first floating wetland classroom, the LEARNING BARGE!

What's the LEARNING BARGE? The award winning 120q by 32q barge was designed by The University of Virginia for The Elizabeth River Project to teach how to help make the river cleaner and restoration a reality.

The Elizabeth River is one of the most polluted rivers on the Chesapeake Bay and The Elizabeth River Project's mission is to restore the Elizabeth River to the highest practical level of environmental quality through government, business and community partnerships. The barge is ERP's new educational tool to help inform, engage and inspire citizens to support the river's restoration.

What will my child do and see? Field investigation will take place while the barge is docked not underway. The barge includes six learning stations for all ages to explore everything from the living wetland nursery, where you can test river water and find out if it is cleaner once wetlands filter it, to the green alley+ demonstrating the barge's ability to operate solely with sun and wind.

Who developed the activities? The Elizabeth River Project's Education Director develops a new program annually that includes hands-on activities, river science, environmental education and stewardship all while addressing Virginia Standards of Learning.

To engage your child before the field trip consider visiting The Elizabeth River Project website, www.elizabethriver.org. In addition, remind your child it's great to ask questions and make predictions about what he/she might see while aboard the LEARNING BARGE.

Ask your child after the field trip, What did you learn today and what can we do to help make restoration of the Elizabeth River a reality?+

Thank you for supporting the Elizabeth River's restoration!

Robin Dunbar

Robin Dunbar, Deputy Director, Education

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