

Explore Elizabeth River
www.elizabethriver.org

The Elizabeth River is a tidal estuary of the Chesapeake Bay and is located in Southeast Virginia. Discover the Elizabeth's rich history, how it has changed over time and learn about your role in helping make the river's restoration a reality.

GUIDELINES: Visit the Elizabeth River, the Learning Barge and Paradise Creek Nature Park. Based on the grid, complete the number of activities for your grade level.

	DISCOVER	CONNECT	ACTION	ANY ACTIVITY UNDER ANY KEY	TOTAL # OF ACTIVITIES
Girl Scout Daisy	1	1	1	0	3
Girl Scout Brownie	1	1	1	1	4
Girl Scout Junior	1	1	1	2	5
Girl Scout Cadette	1	1	1	3	6
Girl Scout Senior	1	1	1	4	7
Girl Scout Ambassador	1	1	1	5	8

DISCOVER

- **Look at the Elizabeth River on a map and identify where it is located in Virginia.** Is the river located at the top, middle or bottom of the Chesapeake Bay? What cities does the Elizabeth River run through? Do you live in the Elizabeth River watershed? Schedule a visit to the Elizabeth River Project office located at 475 Water Street, C103A, Portsmouth, VA 23704 elizabethriver.org/teacher-resources
- **Research who the Elizabeth River was named after and how the river has changed over time.** When was Norfolk Naval Shipyard and Naval Station Norfolk established? List and explain several facts that make both world renowned. elizabethriver.org/teacher-resources
- **Research plants and animals that are native to the Elizabeth River.** Can you name three birds, mammals and fish that call the Elizabeth River their home? Can you name a wetland grass, 3 trees and 3 wildflowers that are native to the Elizabeth River watershed? elizabethriver.org/teacher-resources
- **Look at the Elizabeth River and Chesapeake Bay scorecards to discover their current grade of health.** Name two things that scientist test to measure the quality of the Elizabeth River. elizabethriver.org/teacher-resources
- **Visit Elizabeth River Project's website to learn about the non-profit's history, mission, accomplishments and goals.** Share 1-5 facts about what you learned. Discover stewardship actions that River Stars do to help restore the Elizabeth River to the highest quality of health. Is your school or home a River Star? Is the Girl Scout Council of Colonial Coast a River Star? What can you do to become a River Star? elizabethriver.org

CONNECT

- **Schedule a field investigation on Elizabeth River Project's Dominion Energy Learning Barge currently docked in Norfolk, VA.** Youth learn by doing aboard the award-winning 120'x 32' steel deck barge with live wetlands. Why is the Learning Barge known as America's Greenest Vessel? For more information, call 757-392-7132 and visit www.elizabethriver.org.
- **Adventure to Paradise Creek Nature Park, Portsmouth, VA.** The 40-acre urban park has trails for biking and hiking, kayaking and a forest, a bridge, dock and a mound that provide a bird's eye view of the park. Park staff offer public and private programs and volunteer activities. Participate in a park activity and make a journal entry, take pictures or draw pictures to describe your experience. How old is the park's wetland? Identify three birds you saw during your visit. For more information, call 757-392-7132 and visit <http://paradisecreek.elizabethriver.org/>. Paradise Creek Nature Park is located at 1141 Victory Blvd, Portsmouth, VA 23702.
- **Invite Princess Elizabeth to visit your troop.** Dressed in a Shakespearean gown and toting treasure boxes of maps, puppets and a story telling theatre, the princess will share whimsical stories about the Elizabeth River. Youth will learn about the river's history, wildlife and stewardship actions that will help youth find their role in the river's restoration.

ACTION

- **Implement an environmental project that will help improve the health of the Elizabeth River.** Share your project summary with the Elizabeth River Project for possible recognition as a River Star School or Resilient River Star School and Youth Organization. For more information, see <https://elizabethriver.org/river-star-schools> or <https://elizabethriver.org/youth-resilience-expo>
- **After visiting the Learning Barge and/or Paradise Creek Nature Park, write a letter to the education staff.** Share what you learned and what you will do to help. Mail to The Elizabeth River Project 475 Water Street, C103A, Portsmouth, VA 23704, attention Robin Dunbar, Deputy Director – Education.
- **Sign up your troop to participate in Wetlands in the Classroom and nurture native plants over the winter to plant in the spring.** Also consider collecting native wildflower seeds and establish a garden to attract birds, bees and butterflies. Contact Robin Dunbar, rdunbar@elizabethriver.org for more information or a local butterfly or native plant society.
- **Take numerous pictures while visiting, the park, barge or Princess Elizabeth and create an Elizabeth River scrapbook.** Share your photos with your troop, family and the Elizabeth River Project.
- **Volunteer to help beautify Paradise Creek Nature Park or help with Elizabeth River Project's annual RIVERFest.** At the park implement a cleanup project or help maintain the gardens. Contact Elizabeth River Project for more information on volunteer opportunities for RIVERFest. 757-399-7487.
- **Contact Elizabeth River Project so we can share your achievements!** Call or email Robin Dunbar: rdunbar@elizabethriver.org; 757-392-7132