

ELIZABETH RIVER
PROJECT

Youth Education Programs

Experiential River Learning, Pre-K to 12th Grade

To increase environmental literacy, the Elizabeth River Project provides a menu of award winning programs to inspire yearlong Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences for prek-12th grade teachers and students. Our programs reflect the Virginia Standards of Learning and our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Contact us for current program pricing and possible funding assistance.



The Elizabeth River Project's Dominion Energy Learning Barge docked at Grandy Village Learning Center in Norfolk, Virginia.



Learning Barge

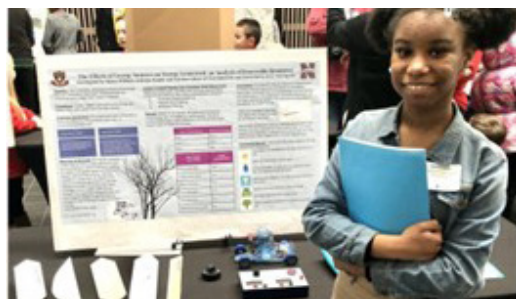
(Grades K-12) Come aboard “America’s Greenest Vessel” powered by the sun and wind and with live wetlands. Up to ninety students over ninety-minutes divide into small groups and rotate to six hands-on learning stations about river history, science, resilience, ecosystem, green energy, stewardship and restoration efforts.

Fill out the field trip request form at www.elizabethriver.org/the-learning-barge/ or contact Shannon Yerabek at (757) 828-4216.

Barge on Wheels

(Grades K-12) The Barge on Wheels comes to your school and students rotate to different learning stations and have close encounters with aquatic animals, test water quality, learn about renewable energy and the value of wetlands.

Fill out the field trip request form by visiting www.elizabethriver.org/the-learning-barge/ or contact Shannon Yerabek at (757) 828-4216.



Youth Water Quality Monitoring

(Grades K-12) Students choose an Elizabeth River location near them to weekly test the water quality for eight weeks. Each student receives a monitoring kit, instructions and staff support. Tests include temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, bacteria, nitrates and turbidity.

Enroll by visiting www.elizabethriver.org/youth-water-monitoring/ or contact Hailey Lauritsen at (757) 828-4885.

Resilient River Star Schools

(Grades K-12) Students conduct an action project with measurable results at their school addressing issues such as flooding, reducing their carbon footprint, and water quality and get recognized with awards. Groups of any size may participate.

Contact Sarah McBride at (757) 828-4932.



Students learn the value of trees at our 40-acre Paradise Creek Nature Park located in Portsmouth, Virginia.

Paradise Creek Nature Park Field Trips

(Grades preK-12) Student groups rotate through four outdoor stations that utilize the forest and wetlands. Activities include testing water quality, measuring trees, and nature identification using scientific tools and guides. The preK-2nd grade program focuses on Jr. Ornithology.

Fill out the field trip request form at www.elizabethriver.org/paradise-creek-nature-park-field-trips/ or contact Sarah McBride at (757) 828-4932.

Nature Explorers at Paradise Creek

(Grades preK-12) Students will join park educators for outdoor adventures, connecting with nature and exploring local wildlife. This program encourages students to stay active, spark curiosity, and appreciate the natural world while learning how it supports a healthy planet. Perfect for homeschool families and mixed-age groups.

Periwinkle Snails Program: Ages 3-8 Green Tree Frogs Program: Ages 9 & up

Enroll by visiting www.elizabethriver.org/nature-explorers/ or contact Sarah McBride at (757) 828-4932.



Youth Conservation Interns

(Portsmouth High Schoolers) During the summer, up to eight interns learn horticulture and landscaping skills over an eight-week, 180 hour period. Interns earn stipends and certification while park staff train students in conservation horticulture skills at Paradise Creek Nature Park.

Contact Larry LaPell, llapell@elizabethriver.org or (757) 828-4748.

Teacher Training

The Elizabeth River Project provides in-person and virtual training that includes resources about the Elizabeth River and how to conduct MWEs, Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences. Self-paced, on-line trainings include: Resilient River Star School and Project Blue Crab. Contact Sarah McBride, smcbride@elizabethriver.org or (757) 828-4932.



Our programs are made possible by:

The Blocker Foundation, BAE Systems Norfolk Ship Repair, Beazley Foundation, City of Portsmouth, Dollar Tree Inc., Dominion Energy, Elizabeth River Project, Hampton Roads Workforce Council, Mark Joel Rothstein River History Series, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, National Marine Sanctuary, Public Schools of Norfolk, Portsmouth, Chesapeake, and Virginia Beach, TC Energy, and The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - BWET Program.

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