2018 Highlights

For 42 years, the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Educational Foundation has sponsored a week long summer conservation camp for Virginia high school students on the campus of Virginia Tech.

This year, the program brought together 44 enthusiastic and interested students from 24 Soil and Water Conservation Districts for a week of learning about Virginia's natural resources from conservation professionals.

Most of the instruction is hands-on and outdoors. According to 2018 camper evaluations, lessons and activities that impacted campers most centered around Best Management Practices, electrofishing, beekeeping, veterinary school, canoeing, and water quality.
The YCC Experience

1. Topography & Watersheds
   - Opening Program
   - Tour Virginia Tech Campus
   - Topography
   - Watersheds

2. Claytor Lake State Park
   - Lake ecology
   - Fisheries management
   - Land use planning & watersheds

3. Cascades, College of Natural Resources
   - Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources Station Exploration
   - Hike to the Cascades Waterfall
   - Mock Dominion Envirotthon
   - Smithfield Foods Sustainability Talk

4. Kentland Farms
   - Agricultural Best Management Practices
   - Water Quality Workshop
   - Tour Dairy Science Facility
   - Beekeeping Demonstration

5. Virginia Tech Football Stadium, Brooks Forest Products Center
   - Tour Lane Stadium, Turfgrass Management
   - Tour of Thomas M. Brooks Forest Products Center
   - Stormwater Best Management Practices Tour
   - Sustainability at Virginia Tech

6. The New River & Virginia - Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine
   - Tour of the Veterinary School
   - Canoe the New River
   - Shoreline Erosion
2018 Camp Staff

The Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts thanks all staff, including counselors, instructors, and volunteers, who made Youth Conservation Camp possible.

Bonnie Mahl, VASWCD
Camp Director

Counselors

Emily Gibbs        Piedmont SWCD
Allyson Ponn       Lord Fairfax SWCD
Brandon Blevins    Clinch Valley SWCD
Laura Guthrie      Virginia Department of Forestry
Luke Hudson        Halifax SWCD
Joe Gerdes         Tidewater SWCD
Brianna Mooring    James River SWCD
Kelly Snoddy       Peter Francisco SWCD
Michael Trop       John Marshall SWCD
Cory Hoar          Virginia Dare SWCD
Tim Miller         Mountain Castles SWCD

YCC Instructors & Volunteers

Bill Kittrell, Sarah Colletti, Tiffany Leach, John Copeland
Shane Brannock     Virginia Tech Dairy Center
Chris Barbour      Skyline SWCD
Cynthia Hannock    Skyline SWCD
Staff              Virginia Tech Kentland Farm
Henry Quesada      Virginia Tech Sustainable Biomaterials
Emerson Pulliam, Derek Bowman
Fred Jones         New River Valley Beekeepers Association
Kevin McLean       VASWCD VCAP Coordinator
Becky Barlow       Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
John Gray Williams Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources
Karlee Sierpierski Virginia Tech Office of Sustainability
Alyssa Hamil       Smithfield Foods
Dr. Edwards, Mel Kegley Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine

"It’s an amazing program, and I met amazing people."

"If you have interest in conservation, you should apply for this camp."
2018 YCC Sponsors

Thank you to our sponsors for financial and "in-kind" contributions that make YCC possible.

**Soil & Water Conservation Districts**
- Appomattox River SWCD
- Blue Ridge SWCD
- Clinch Valley SWCD
- Daniel Boone SWCD
- Eastern Shore SWCD
- Halifax SWCD
- Headwaters SWCD
- Henricopolis SWCD
- James River SWCD
- John Marshall SWCD
- Loudoun SWCD
- Mountain Castles SWCD
- Mountain SWCD
- New River SWCD
- Northern Neck SWCD
- Northern Virginia SWCD
- Peanut SWCD
- Peter Francisco SWCD
- Pittsylvania SWCD
- Prince William SWCD
- Shenandoah Valley SWCD
- Thomas Jefferson SWCD
- Three Rivers SWCD
- Virginia Dare SWCD

**Agencies & Institutions**
- Virginia Department of Forestry
- Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
- Virginia Tech Dairy Science Center
- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Virginia Tech Sustainable Biomaterials - Brooks Forest Production Center
- Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine
- Virginia Tech Office of Sustainability
- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Virginia Tech Sustainable Biomaterials - Brooks Forest Production Center
- Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine
- Virginia Tech Office of Sustainability

**Business & Industry**
- First Bank & Trust Co.
- BJ’s Wholesale Club
- Blacksburg Mellow Mushroom
- Smithfield Foods

** Foundations, Associations, Organizations, & Individuals**
- VA Farm Bureau
- VA Chapter of Soil & Water Conservation Society
- Virginia Conservation Assistance Program
- Rotary Club of South Richmond
- Richmond Foundation
- South Richmond Rotary

"YCC was a great experience for me. I learned tons about the world around me"

"I am so excited about the future ahead! YCC has most certainly played a large role in my growing interest in conservation as a career"

**Announcing 2019 YCC**

Next year, Youth Conservation Camp will be held in July 2019. It is open to students who are in the 9th - 12th grade in the 2018/19 school year. Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District for the application and deadline. Visit vaswcd.org/conservation-camp for more information about the 2019 YCC.