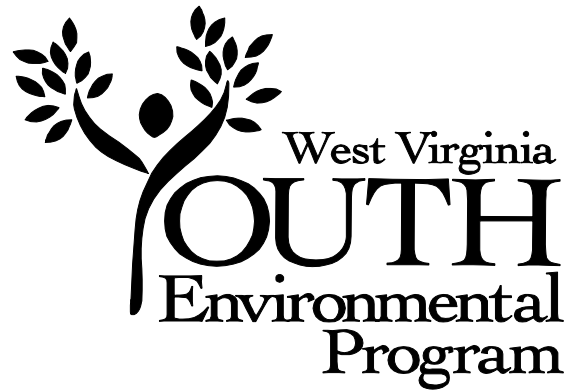


48th Annual
Youth Environmental Conference
Blackwater Falls State Park
November 8-10, 2024



A limited number of scholarships are available on a first-come first-served basis.

- All participants wanting to attend the conference can request to send two members between the ages of 13 and 18 and one chaperone at no charge. There is a possibility that additional scholarships may be available; however, it is not guaranteed. Please contact me at annette.l.hoskins@wv.gov for authorization.
- Be sure to complete the reservation form as soon as possible as the scholarships will go quickly.
- All participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from the conference.

To register for the Youth Conference, click on this link: <https://forms.gle/vRLuf15aSLgAqp2q7>

Additional youth participants and adult chaperones are welcome to attend at the cost of \$225 each. Please make checks payable to the: Department of Environmental Protection or DEP.

The deadline for receiving reservations is 3 pm, Friday, October 11, 2024.

- Blackwater Falls requires the list of all conference participants by this date.
- A limited number of rooms are available. Rooms that are not used will be released on October 11.
- Reservations will be accepted after October 11 only if rooms are still available at Blackwater Falls State Park.

Room assignments will be made with 2 to 4 participants per room, chaperones included, depending on room type. Preference of roommates must be listed on the reservation form.

- No room changes will be made upon arrival.
- All participants must be pre-registered; no walk-ins will be accepted.

Permission slip, release form, photo consent and conference rules will be sent with your confirmation.

- Attendance at this conference confirms an agreement to abide by all conference rules.
- The permission slip, release form and photo consent form must be signed by the parent/guardian and by the participant and must be received by November 1. Faxed copies are unacceptable. Original forms with original signatures are needed.
- Participants cannot attend the Saturday tour without the original signed release forms.

Environmental activities are scheduled for Friday evening, November 8.

- Tentative activities include a hike, arts and crafts and environmental education presentations.

Dinner will be served on Friday at 7 pm.

- The conference convenes at 7:45 pm
- Door prizes and games will follow the presentation.

An idea swap will be featured Friday evening.

- Each youth group represented at the conference is invited to give a three-minute report on their community environmental project(s).
- If you have handouts, be sure to bring copies. If you need copies made of your handout, please let someone know at registration on Friday.
- The report must be given by a young person.
- **Important**: Mark the space on the reservation form if your club will be participating in the idea swap.

Breakfast buffets on Saturday and Sunday mornings will be served in The Smokehouse Restaurant.

Tentative tour sites for Saturday, November 9, include Blackwater Falls Nature Center, Dominion Energy Power Station, National Youth Science Center and Tucker Chaffey Run Strip Reclamation Site.

- Transportation will be provided by Tucker County school buses.

Dinner is scheduled for Saturday evening at in The Smokehouse Restaurant.

- After dinner, an educational program will take place with a guest speaker.

Create an art project from recyclable materials using the theme “Environmental Pollution”

- Be prepared to describe your art project and its environmental qualities.
- Art projects will be displayed and judged Saturday night. Prizes will be awarded on Sunday morning.
- **Important**: Mark the space on the reservation form if your club will be making an art project.

Activities on-site will take place Saturday night.

- Arcade, Swimming and Games will be available.

Leaders from the Department of Environmental Protection and Division of Natural Resources will welcome all conference participants on Friday and will remain through Sunday.

- If you wish to participate in the Friday afternoon workshops you need to arrive by 5 pm.
- All participants are required to attend the entire conference, beginning Friday evening through adjournment on Sunday morning.
- Parents will assume responsibility for all damages caused by conference participants.

Sincerely,



Annette Hoskins, Program Manager
Youth Environmental Program