



West Virginia YOUTH Environmental Program



Spring 2019

WV Department of Environmental Protection

Message from the director ...

Who wants to be eligible for over \$15,000 in cash awards? Don't forget, April 15 is the deadline to submit your reports or apply for our college scholarship!

New this year — the Youth Environmental Program will need a signed IRS form W-9 by the parent or guardian of each child selected for an individual award in order to issue a check. Please contact your district coordinator or myself with questions.



Annette Hoskins
YEP Director

Youth Environmental Day is set for May 18 at North Bend State Park. On Friday night, we are conducting our first-ever YEP Talent Show. So, arrive early, sign up to sing, do magic, play an instrument, perform a dance, or whatever your talent is. If you don't want to participate, come cheer on your peers as we see some of the best talent in the state.

Junior Conservation Camp is June 17-21 at Cedar Lakes in Ripley for youth 11-14. The cost per camper is \$175. If you need help finding a scholarship, please contact me: Annette.L.Hoskins@wv.gov, or 304-926-0499, ext. 1659.

SUMMER FUN

Environmental camps offer exciting challenges for all

By Harmony Dressler

Summer is on its way! That means it's time to start making your vacation plans. Rather than catching up on reruns of cartoons, make the most of the off-season by attending one of the wonderful environmental camps offered throughout our state!



Whether you're new to nature, or an experienced scout, there's something that will suit your fancy. The programs detailed below have an emphasis on environmental sciences and sustainability, with outdoor activities including hiking, wilderness skills, field science and more. Summer camps offer opportunities for exciting challenges and games, and an interesting, fun-filled summer!

Our very own Department of Environmental Protection hosts the Junior Conservation Camp, June 17-21 at Cedar Lakes in Ripley. The camp is open to anyone between ages 11-14 and offers a wide variety of classes that will enhance the participant's knowledge of the environment. Cost is \$175. You can contact Annette Hoskins with any questions and to inquire about scholarships at Annette.L.Hoskins@wv.gov.

If you're in the 14-17 age range, State Conservation Camp might be for you. Located at Camp Caesar in Webster County, the camp is scheduled June 10-15 and costs \$200. Participants spend the mornings learning about the state's natural resources in a block-schedule format and enjoy afternoon activities such as archery, boating and rifle marksmanship. You can contact either Alan



Junior Conservation Camp at Cedar Lakes is scheduled June 17-21.

Miller by phone at 304-358-3298 or Dr. Ben Spong by phone at 304-293-9425, or by email at ben.spong@mail.wvu.edu with any camp questions or to inquire about camp scholarships.

The Cacapon Institute, located in Great Cacapon, offers a Stream Scholars Summer Camp for

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Find us on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/depwv

YEP News

WV Youth Environmental Program
601 57th St. S.E., Charleston WV 25304

News from the YEP districts

District 1

Shanti Amos
District Coordinator



FRIENDS of the Cheat, located in Preston County, was selected as the 2018 Watershed of the Year by the West Virginia Watershed Network Committee for the exemplary work the group accomplished this past year.

Watershed groups are comprised of a dedicated group of people, who often volunteer their time to improve water quality, enhance habitat and create recreational opportunities in their respective communities.

One of FOC's annual events is the Cheat River Festival the first weekend in May. In 2018, Cheat Fest attracted 3,500 people, raising \$31,000 for the organization.

FOC hosted many events and completed several projects this past year. One project was initiated by Laurel Williams and Aidan Rider, students at Preston High School. Laurel is the daughter of Ladd Williams, a WV DEP employee. The students contacted



Beth Warnick at FOC and formed a partnership with the watershed group to create an environmental awareness club, Knights of the Cheat.

The club has created service and science opportunities for the students. Some of the activities planned for the spring include a water monitoring class, benthic training, tree plantings, Cheat River Water Trail litter cleanup, and the organization of the Mud Creek Duck Race (photo), a fundraiser Knights of the Cheat is hosting at Cheat Fest.

District 3

Beth Henry-Vance
District Coordinator



HIGH school students from throughout the state are gearing up for the West Virginia Envirothon, which will take place April 17-18 at Canaan Valley Resort in Tucker County.

More than 3,000 students have participated since the event began in 1997. Envirothon is designed to highlight West Virginia's diverse ecosystem and encourage young people to protect it for future generations.

This hands-on outdoor education program tests natural resource knowledge and problem-solving skills, while giving participants the opportunity to win college scholarships to a school of their choice. The first-place team will win \$5,000 and can compete in the national Envirothon.

The event is open to students in grades nine through 12, and it features the subjects of forestry, soils, aquatics and wildlife, along with a current environmental

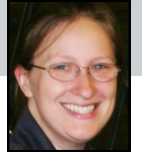


topic that changes each year. The competition's location also changes, rotating to different sites every other year.

Teams are made up of five students and an adult advisor, and they can be formed from schools, FFA groups, 4-H clubs, Boy Scout or Girl Scout troops, and more. Registration information and additional details can be found online at www.wvca.us/envirothon. I am excited to help with this year's event, and I hope to see lots of teams sign up!

District 2

Harmony Dressler
District Coordinator



ANY season is the perfect time to explore the outdoors, but the spring and summer offer many opportunities you might not have during the rest of the year.

You could take a hike in the woods, go for a bike ride on approved trails or around your neighborhood, just watch the clouds roll by, or you could enjoy one of everyone's favorite childhood activities: playing in the creek!

The US Forest Service has designed a program that will allow you to do that in a unique way. The Monongahela National Forest's snorkeling program has been growing in popularity since its inception about six years ago. Participants don wet suits and snorkeling gear to get a "fish's eye view" of the stream. Then they investigate the natural habitat of the state's aquatic life through a guided exploration.

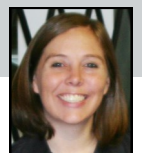
The snorkeling program works with school groups, 4-H groups, or



scouting groups that are located in or willing to travel to the Monongahela National Forest. Wet suits, masks, and, of course, snorkels are all provided for participants. If you'd like to get your group signed up for the snorkel program, or get information on beginning a similar program outside of the Monongahela National Forest's service area, contact The Monongahela National Forest in Elkins at 304-636-1800. You can also like the program on Facebook to get updates on the events scheduled for 2019.

District 4

Sara Prior
District Coordinator



GIRL Scout Troop 1895 joined the Youth Environmental Program in the fall and the girls have been busy!

This troop understands the importance of hard work and helping the community. The Fayette County group has participated in several cleanups and gives back to the community by visiting the local nursing homes, conducting litter sweeps, and donating to the local animal shelter.

In the fall, the troop helped clean up Fayetteville Town Park and participated in the town's Fall Festival.

The festival ended with a firework display and the girls conducted a litter sweep to clean the firework debris.

Also, each troop member participated in the Recycling Coalition of WV's Coloring and Freedom Contest. The younger girls entered the coloring contest, while the older girls wrote essays



or made artwork out of recycled materials. This contest happens every year. Visit wvrecycles.com for more information.

Just recently, the girls made upcycled pet toys (photo) from scraps of fabric to donate to the local animal shelter. They will also collect items to go with the toys and volunteer to walk the dogs at the shelter.

Finally, the girls are planning a canned food drive, a garden/tree planting event, and an Earth Day cleanup.

District 5

Tom Aluise
District Coordinator



MOVE over, Batman. Step aside, Superman. Out of the way, Aquaman.

There is a new superhero in town. Meet Recycleman.

South Charleston High School sophomore Bailey White earned the unique nickname — and his cape — as a student at Dunbar Middle School, where his passion for making old things new again took flight.

Bailey helped form a Green Team at Dunbar Middle and led the charge to collect recyclables from classrooms.

At South Charleston High, his penchant for gobbling up plastics and paper only grew. As a freshman, Bailey visited with most of the school's teachers to gauge their interest in recycling. That first year, 10 classrooms collected recyclables in boxes Bailey made at home.

This year, more than 40 rooms at South Charleston High are recycling, thanks to Bailey's leadership. One day each week,



Bailey and his friends collect recycled goods from each room.

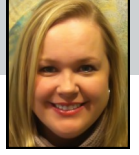
Recently, Bailey was honored as a "Recycling Champion" by the Recycling Coalition of West Virginia and his efforts also drew praise from the Kanawha County School Board.

Bailey recycles at home, as well, and even asked for a paper shredder for Christmas.

"It's a joy to watch him just do what he loves to do in a school where they welcome him to do it," mom Tracy White said.

District 6

Nedia Cyran
District Coordinator



CONGRATULATIONS

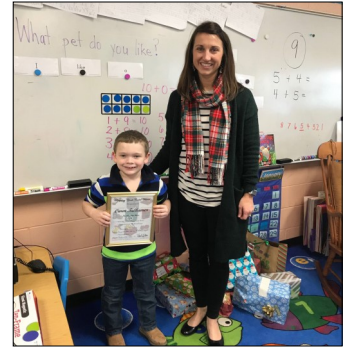
to Owen Talhamer, a kindergarten from Smithville Elementary in Ritchie County.

He is pictured with his kindergarten teacher, Holli Vaughan and his award certificate for winning the 2018 Coloring Contest, sponsored by the Recycling Coalition of West Virginia.

He was selected from hundreds of entries from across the Mountain State and received \$25, along with a certificate of recognition. Owen's class also shared in his success with a \$75 gift, awarded to his teacher.

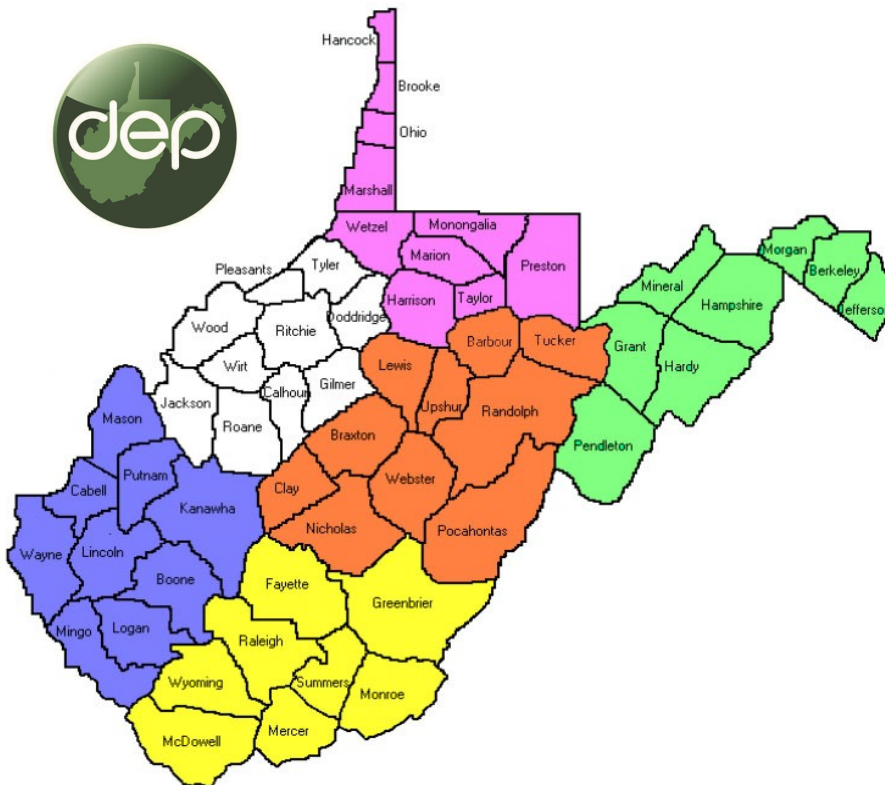
The West Virginia Recycles campaign features the theme, "It All Comes Back to You." The slogan presents multiple messages: a recycled product or material can return to consumers as another new product; recycling comes back to consumers as an improved environment; and it is everyone's responsibility to recycle.

The Recycling Coalition of West Virginia is a non-profit envi-



ronmental organization. Its mission is to promote the effective and sustainable reduction, reuse and recycling of materials otherwise destined for disposal. The goals of the Recycling Coalition's Youth Contest are to encourage students to use their creativity and learn about recycling. Visit its website at www.wvrecycles.org to find out how you can pledge to recycle, buy recycled products, and support West Virginia recycling.

Youth Program Coordinators



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Spotlight On.



Junior Elementary School

Location: Barbour County

Number of members: 115

Junior Elementary School has earned the West Virginia Sustainable Schools Award and a \$5,000 grant for its green and healthy biking program. The school will offer safety training, and it will purchase bicycles, tricycles and helmets that students can use during recess, physical education classes, 15-minute “brain breaks” and after school with families. Other environmental activities at the school include stream projects, spring and fall fishing outings and a variety of outdoor science classes.

Calendar of Events

April 1-14 — West Virginia Make It Shine Statewide Cleanup.

April 15 — Youth Environmental Program reports due.

April 23 — West Virginia Make It Shine Earth Day Event, Clay Center, Charleston.

April 27 — Adopt-A-Highway Statewide Spring Cleanup.

May 17-18 — Youth Environmental Day, North Bend State Park.

June 15 — Ohio River Sweep.

June 17-21 — West Virginia Junior Conservation Camp, Cedar Lakes, Jackson County.

August 3 — Adopt-A-Highway Appreciation Picnic, Canaan Resort.

September 7 — Make It Shine Great Kanawha River Cleanup.

September 27-29 — Youth Environmental Conference, Hawks Nest State Park.

** For more information about Make It Shine and Adopt-A-Highway events, call: 1-800-322-5530.*

SUMMER

Continued from Page 1

students in grades 6-8. The camp includes two days of stream sampling, a three-day, two-night camping trip and a visit to Washington D.C.

Stream Scholars Summer Camp is an action-filled camp teaching stream and watershed science with water quality testing, stream sampling, canoeing, and safe outdoor adventure.

In 2019, the camp will run from July 15-19. If you register before May 31, the cost is \$200 (\$300 if you register after May 31). For questions about camp or to ask about available scholarships, contact the Cacapon Institute at 304-258-8013 or by email at: sssc@cacaponinstitute.org.

If you want to get away from it all for a week of exploring and stewardship, Experience Learning, located in Pendleton County, offers several different camps through its Mountain

Stewards Summer Camp program. The different camps cover ages 8-19 and all experience levels, and there are camps geared toward either boys or girls. You will climb mountains, traverse caves, and navigate through West Virginia's beautiful and diverse forests as you take part in age-appropriate service projects.

These camps are offered all through the summer and vary in price from \$250 to \$1,300. If you have any questions about Experience Learning camps, contact them by email at: info@experience-learning.org or by phone at 304-567-2632.

Those in the northern part of our state might be interested in the Oglebay Institute's Junior Nature Camp. This camp is for youth ages 10-15 and is located at Camp Giscowheco, 10 minutes outside of Wheeling.

The goal of the camp is to increase understanding of our natural world in an environment that promotes teamwork, personal responsibility and respect.

You can choose to attend camp for one week (\$350) or two weeks (\$750), from July 14-27. If you'd like to learn more about this camp, contact the Oglebay Institute by phone at 304-242-6855.

If none of these camps catch your eye, or if you are more interested in a day camp than a sleepaway camp, but you would still like to connect with nature this summer, there are numerous other environmental camps offered across the state.

Local and statewide 4-H summer camps are open to all West Virginia youth. And if you're a Boy Scout or Girl Scout, there are scout-specific camps available. Other sources for environmental summer camps are libraries, colleges, universities, YMCA/YWCA, and even local grade schools. If you need help finding an environmental summer camp for your child, contact your local Youth Environmental Program coordinator for assistance. Enjoy your summer!