

SCHUYLKILL

 ACTS & IMPACTS 

AN EXPEDITION TO INSPIRE WATERSHED ACTION

PROGRAM PARTNERS:
SCHUYLKILL HEADWATERS ASSOCIATION
FAIRMOUNT WATER WORKS
STROUD WATER RESEARCH CENTER

WHAT IS "SCHUYLKILL ACTS AND IMPACTS"

a weeklong watershed expedition along
the 120-miles of the Schuylkill River,
from headwaters to lower Schuylkill in
Philadelphia

2020 is 7th year

WHO PARTICIPATES

High school students from 5 counties in the watershed

Students complete a series of short-essays and phone interview process

PROGRAM FOCUS

Focus on legacy of coal mining

Agricultural impacts

Land preservation

Urban water systems

Stormwater runoff and green
infrastructure

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

to inspire

to learn

to apply knowledge through service projects

to practice leadership skills

to learn about career pathways

to make new friends

to develop a long-term relationship with environmental stewardship

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Students conduct water quality testing each day using Stroud Water Research Center's WQ App. At the end of the week, the data is uploaded, compiled and analyzed and compared with previous years of data.

Kayaking, camping, hiking, invasive species removal, early morning guided walk at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, visit to a former coal mine (museum)

FUNDING

All costs for students are underwritten by partner organizations Schuylkill Headwaters Association, the Fairmount Water Works, and Stroud with smaller grants from local organizations and individuals

Cost: \$1,000 per student

SCHEDULE BASICS

Breakfast

Tour/Program

Lunch

Tour/Programs

Dinner

Set up camp

Reflection around campfire and journaling























STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

“We did water testing that was much more intense than my AP Environmental Studies class. They made me rethink my dislike for chemistry. I usually dislike it, but these hands-on tests I find really cool. I’m proud of myself for knowing what the tests do and what they mean to the water and organisms.”

“I always forget how beautiful PA is. Kayaking is so peaceful and I really felt like I was experiencing something special. It was really rewarding to finish the 15 miles. It was something I didn’t quite know I was capable of.”

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

“Went to the farm. His operation really impressed me because it changes my perception on all farms’ treatments of their cows. The cows were well fed, had room to move, were taken care of, the machines that milked the cows were not painful and the cows actually liked being milked. The machine was fascinating to watch. It was amazing how my perceptions on farming, especially with cows, is not what I believed it to be. Especially after taking AP Environmental Science and learning about the negative environmental impacts and poor conditions livestock face. I was shocked to see how happy the cows seemed.”

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

“Crow’s Nest - I enjoyed hearing about Dan’s background and how he came to work for Natural Lands – it was also reassuring that he was able to major in English and still find a career in a completely different field after college. I plan to look into any volunteering opportunities offered by Natural Lands in my area.”

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

“It has been so fun to be on this trip. I hope I have the amazing opportunity to do this again. It made me realize how much of an impact we (humans) make on the watershed. I want to help with this anyway I can. It is so amazing!!!”

“Overall, I think this program has opened up a lot of new doors for me such as a new possible career path in environmental science. It also taught me a lot of things I didn't know before. It opened up a lot of connections and friendships.”

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

“This program is amazing. I learned that water is not just going to get clean by itself, but we as people have to do our part, even if we are not a scientist or an environmental teacher. Just us as normal people, we need to start doing our part and get our environment much better. This program was a whole new world to me and I am happy about it. My lifestyle is surely going to change based on this program. I am really grateful.”

QUESTIONS?



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