



Explore Elizabeth River Project

www.elizabethriver.org

The Elizabeth River is a tidal estuary of the Chesapeake Bay and is located in Southeast Virginia. Discover the Elizabeth's rich history, how it has changed over time, and learn about your role in helping make the river's restoration a reality.

GUIDELINES: Visit the Elizabeth River, the Learning Barge, and Paradise Creek Nature Park. Based on the grid, complete the number of activities for your grade level.

	DISCOVER	CONNECT	TAKE ACTION	ANY ACTIVITY UNDER ANY KEY	TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES
Girl Scout Daisy	1	1	1	0	3
Girl Scout Brownie	1	1	1	1	4
Girl Scout Junior	1	1	1	2	5
Girl Scout Cadette	1	1	1	3	6
Girl Scout Senior	1	1	1	4	7
Girl Scout Ambassador	1	1	1	5	8

DISCOVER

Answer the following questions:

- **Look at the Elizabeth River on a map and identify where it is located in Virginia.** Is the river located at the top, middle or bottom of the Chesapeake Bay? What cities does the Elizabeth River run through? Do you live in the Elizabeth River watershed? Check at this [link to our watershed map](#).
- **Research the Indigenous tribes that lived in the Elizabeth Watershed before colonization.** Name at least 2 of the tribes who lived in this area before Europeans arrived. Find at least 2 more facts about those tribes? Why do you think they lived on the Elizabeth River? <https://elizabethriver.org/indigenous-history/>
- **Research plants and animals that are native to the Elizabeth River.** Name three birds, three mammals and three fish that call the Elizabeth River their home. Name three plants that are native to the Elizabeth River watershed. elizabethriver.org/teacher-resources (scroll down to "other resources")
- **Look at the "State of the Elizabeth River" Scorecard to discover the current grade of health.** State the Elizabeth River's current overall grade. Name two things that scientist test to measure the quality of the Elizabeth River. Why do you think we want the Elizabeth River to earn a good health grade? elizabethriver.org/teacher-resources
- **Visit Elizabeth River Project's website to learn about the non-profit's history, mission, accomplishments and goals.** When was the Elizabeth River Project started? What is our mission? Share three facts that you learned about the Elizabeth River Project. elizabethriver.org
- **Explore how to become a River Star.** What does it mean to be a River Star? What are some stewardship actions that River Stars do to help restore the Elizabeth River to the highest quality of health? Is your school or home a River Star? Is the Girl Scout Council of Colonial Coast a River Star? What can you do to become a River Star Home and/or School? <https://elizabethriver.org/river-stars/>

CONNECT

- **Schedule a field investigation on Elizabeth River Project's Dominion Energy Learning Barge currently docked in Norfolk, VA.** Youth learn by doing aboard the award-winning 120'x 32' steel deck barge with live wetlands. For more information visit <https://elizabethriver.org/the-learning-barge/>.
- **Schedule a field investigation at Paradise Creek Nature Park.** Paradise Creek Nature Park field trips are offered for grades Pre-K through 12. Students learn about the native plants and animals, explore how the park is resilient to environmental challenges, and ways they can help. <https://elizabethriver.org/paradise-creek-nature-park-field-trips/>
- **Adventure in Paradise Creek Nature Park, Portsmouth, VA.** The 40-acre urban park has trails for biking and hiking, a kayak launch, a forest, a bridge, dock, and a mound that provide a bird's eye view of the park. Explore the park on your own or attend one of our many park programs. Write, take pictures, or draw pictures to describe your experience. Identify one plant and one animal you saw during your visit. For more information visit <https://elizabethriver.org/paradise-creek/>. Paradise Creek Nature Park is located at 1141 Victory Blvd, Portsmouth, VA 23702.
- **Invite Our Educators to visit your troop.** Youth will learn about the river's history, wildlife and stewardship actions that will help the river's restoration. Email Sarah McBride at smcbride@elizabethriver.org to schedule a visit.
- **Schedule a tour of our Ryan Resilience Lab** at 4610 Colley Ave Norfolk, VA 23508 – The Ryan Resilience Lab is a global model for coastal resilience. Learn how local residents and businesses can respond to environmental challenges. <https://elizabethriver.org/ryan-resilience-lab/>

TAKE ACTION

Complete the following activities:

- **Implement an environmental action project that will help improve the health of the Elizabeth River.** Share your project summary with the Elizabeth River Project for possible recognition as a River Star School or Youth Organization. For more information, see [Youth Resilience Projects - Elizabeth River Project](#).
- **After visiting the Learning Barge, Ryan Resilience Lab and/or Paradise Creek Nature Park, write a letter to the education staff.** Share what you learned and what you will do to help the river. Send your mail to The Ryan Resilience Lab at 4610 Colley Ave Norfolk, VA 23508, attention Summer Mace, Director of Education.
- **Take numerous pictures while visiting Paradise Creek Nature Park, Learning Barge, and/or The Ryan Resilience Lab and create an Elizabeth River scrapbook or presentation.** Share your photos with your troop, family, and the Elizabeth River Project. Email them to smace@elizabethriver.org.
- **Volunteer to help the Elizabeth River Project at one of our volunteer events.** Youth over 16 may volunteer unaccompanied. Youth under 16 may volunteer with a ratio of 1 chaperone to 5 youth present at the event. <https://elizabethriver.org/volunteer/>
- **Contact Elizabeth River Project so we can share your achievements!** Email Summer Mace: smace@elizabethriver.org