

CENTER FOR AQUATIC RESEARCH



LOCATION: Plum Point Middle School and Morgan State University Estuarine Research Center
Huntingtown, Maryland
Calvert County

ENTERING GRADES: 7 - 9

TYPE: Non-residential

DATES OF OPERATION:

July 13 - 24
8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

TUITION: \$150 for a two-week non-residential program

Explore the Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay by boat and canoe as we conduct an investigation of the environmental health of these Maryland treasures. Our research will bring us onto the water and into a working research laboratory to document phyto-plankton blooms within Calvert County



waterways. In recent years, blooms have created “dead zones” in the Bay — areas of little or no oxygen with very few, if any, living creatures.

Using microscopes and digital cameras, we will photograph organisms and report our findings to the environmental scientists conducting long-term studies of phyto-plankton blooms. We will take important measures of water chemistry to examine the connection between run-off from the surrounding watershed and the intensity of plankton bloom events. Our data will be useful as part of a “hotline report” to keep multiple stakeholders informed of any serious environmental threats that are detected.

Various technological tools such as Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) will be used to map the precise locations of our finds. We will use these maps, as well as digital photographs of the specimens collected, to record the distribution and relative abundance of plankton blooms within the Chesapeake Bay and the Patuxent River. Our team will author an atlas document to detail the results of our work. This report will be presented to environmental organizations to provide a tool useful in the forecasting of the health of the Chesapeake Bay.



Mail completed application to:

Thomas Harten
CHESPAX
P.O. Box 722
Huntingtown, MD 20639
(410) 535-2960
Email: Hartent@calvertnet.k12.md.us