



VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
7308 Hanover Green Drive, Suite 100 • Mechanicsville, Virginia 23111
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Youth Conservation Leadership Institute August 2017-March 2018

The Youth Conservation Leadership Institute (YCLI) is a program focusing on volunteer service, environmental stewardship, leadership and connecting students with environmental issues in their local communities. The YCLI program is designed to engage students in the resources and topics of Soil & Water Conservation District programs beyond the limits of a single camp program or competition. It is the intention of YCLI to connect the knowledge gained through programs such as Youth Conservation Camp and Envirothon with specific environmental concerns and needs in one's local community.

As a participant in the Youth Conservation Leadership Institute, students will be required to complete a minimum of 20 hours of community service with a focus in the natural resources conservation field. Students are encouraged to focus work with the local Soil & Water Conservation District but any work that contributes to pollution prevention, natural resources conservation, and promotion of environmental literacy will be accepted. All projects must have a confirmed mentor which may be a local SWCD, government agency, community leader, or similar local organization.

YCLI is open to any Virginia high school student committed to the entirety of the program including:

- Completion of at least 20 community service hours to be approved by the VASWCD staff.
- Submission of one interim and final report/presentation on the community work completed.
- Attendance at the final recognition program to be held March 2018.
- Read an assigned book on environmental leadership for a group discussion

Specifics for the recognition program and reporting will be announced along with the acceptance letter.

Questions? Contact Bonnie Mahl at bonnie.mahl@vaswcd.org or (804) 559-0324.



Youth Conservation Leadership Institute 2017-2018 Application

Completed applications should be received by the VASWCD no later than August 18, 2017.

Please type or print responses legibly.

A. Personal Information

Applicant's Name _____

Last

First

Middle

Home Address _____

County of Residence _____

Local Soil & Water Conservation District _____

Telephone Number _____ Email: _____

Name of High School Attending (2017-2018) _____

Grade Entering for the 2017-2018 School Year _____

B. Environmental Leadership & Activity Experience

List any environmental leadership or activity experience you may have including participation in Envirothon, Youth Conservation Camp, 4-H, Future Farmers of America (FFA), etc. Attach additional information as needed.

C. Essay:

Attach a typed essay of a minimum of 500 words describing yourself and your involvement/interest in conservation and the environment. Address what you feel is the most important environmental issue in your community and why. Why are you interested in participating in the Youth Conservation Leadership Institute?

D. Recommendation (teacher, scout leader, SWCD staff, etc.):

Please submit at least one letter of recommendation from an unrelated adult that can attest to your interest in conservation and community service, and your ability to work independently and as part of a team.

Recommendation Contact: Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone # _____ E-Mail _____

E. Signatures/Certification:

Parent/Guardian:

I acknowledge that my student has applied to participate in the Youth Conservation Leadership Institute, a program focused on volunteer service, environmental stewardship, and connecting students with local environmental issues. I understand that some travel may be necessary to attend community service events and the final awards program. I understand that some travel may be reimbursable.

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Applicant:

I acknowledge by completing and submitting this application that I am committed to completing a minimum of 20 community service hours related to an environmental conservation project. I am committed to working independently to complete this task and provide an interim report to the VASWCD. I am committed to reading the assigned book and participating in the group discussion. I am committed to providing a final report on my project at the final recognition program to be held in March 2018.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____