



**SCHEDULING
YOUR VISIT**



ELIZABETH RIVER PROJECT LEARNING BARGE

Teaching YOU how to help make the river swimmable & fishable by 2020

COMING FALL 2009 ~The LEARNING BARGE will be available for field trips beginning October 1 with an exciting mission to teach all ages how YOU can help make the Elizabeth River safe for swimming and eating shellfish by 2020.

World's First Floating Wetland Classroom ~ The 120' by 32' barge has six stations on board that will allow all ages to explore everything from the living wetland nursery, where you can test river water and find out if it is cleaner once wetlands filter it, to the "green alley" demonstrating the barge's ability to operate solely with sun and wind. An enclosed classroom lab invites you to examine river conditions where the barge is docked and compare them to a NOAA weather buoy. A final "river reflections" station, funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, will engage you in your own expression of river art while learning how other cultures honor their rivers

River Field Trips ~ The Elizabeth River Project and top education advisors from area schools are putting finishing touches on the curriculum, so the LEARNING BARGE can begin hosting students, civic groups and youth groups. The afternoon 1.5 hour program for up to 30 youth would be perfect for scouts, home schools or private schools!!

Reserve YOUR visit Now!

To receive further information or explore reserving a visit by your group, contact Robin Dunbar, Education Director for LEARNING BARGE, a.k.a. our education character "Princess Elizabeth,"

rdunbar@elizabethriver.org ■757-399-RIVR (7487)
www.elizabethriver.org

Before contacting us, please read the following guidance about our startup programming:

1) Sign up your school or youth organization for a Meaningful Watershed Experience -- an on-the-water, inquiry-based field trip, right on the Elizabeth. School children visiting the barge will experience VA Standards of Learning correlated, action oriented instruction to answer the question: How can I help make the Elizabeth River swimmable and fishable?

- During the start-up fall 2009 season (Oct.1 – Oct.30), field trips will primarily target grades 3-8, and schools in the Elizabeth River watershed, but can be tailored to all ages. (Note: Barge not available Nov. 1- March 30 winterized).
- The signature field trip is 2 ½ hours and is offered in the morning. Afternoon program is 1 ½ hours and is a great option for smaller groups. Both options take students through learning stations with trained educators. Field trips rain or shine.
- Minimum participants 20 and maximum 60 for 2 ½ hour program and minimum participants 15 and maximum 30 for 1 ½ hour program. Schools must provide 1 adult chaperone per each 10 students for students' safety.
- Fee is \$5 per student to help offset program costs. Limited assistance may be available for bus costs, depending on grant funds we have on hand.
- The signature field trips are available primarily in the morning, Monday-Friday.

2) Civic groups – Come aboard for a one-of-a-kind environmental education experience! The LEARNING BARGE is available to the public for scheduled visits by groups seeking to explore the barge mission, to teach all ages how to make the Elizabeth River swimmable and fishable by 2020. Experience the adult version of our learning stations! The barge will be available for adult environmental education primarily on weekday afternoons and early evenings (not available after dark due to limited lighting). A fee of \$5 per person helps offset program costs (minimum, 20 participants; maximum, 60). In addition, a schedule of open houses, startup workshops and docking locations will be announced soon.

3) Education first, please! The LEARNING BARGE is an education vessel and currently is not available for non-environmental education purposes. Exceptions can be made only if there is a direct benefit to our mission (determined case by case). Please note this is an outdoor vessel with limited electricity, geared for hands-on learning activities and not generally suited for extended, sit-down business meetings.

A BARGE-full of thanks to LEARNING BARGE Sponsors!

The LEARNING BARGE would not be possible without the generosity of sponsors and our core support team, the members and donors of The Elizabeth River Project. Visit www.elizabethriver.org to view supporters and to learn more about the world's first floating wetland classroom, Elizabeth River Project LEARNING BARGE!

Standards of Learning: Science 3.1, 3.6, 3.9, 3.10, 4.1, 4.6, 4.8, 5.1, 6.1, 6.5, 6.7, 6.9
Life Science .1, .4, .7, .12 Physical Science .1

