



Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District

Serving Culpeper, Greene, Madison, Orange & Rappahannock

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Culpeper SWCD coordinated MWEE programming with five school divisions and 8 schools in the 2025-2026 academic year. 602 Students experienced meaningful watershed educational experiences, and 27 educators received professional development focused on MWEEs. These experiences were week-long studies that immersed students in watershed education. Using an organization developed curriculum specific to the needs of the benefiting community, Soil and Water Conservation educators trained science educators during summer professional development and then supported them as they implemented lessons in the classroom to prepare for outdoor learning.

Students enjoyed full day field experiences where they performed water quality tests they learned in their classrooms. Partners from USDA-NRCS offered lessons on soil and erosion and local foresters led students to use dichotomous keys to identify trees. A post test was used to gauge academic gains. Curriculum connections were made with language arts content when each 6th grader wrote a letter to the editor explaining their learning from the field day.

Action projects varied by school. Some chose to complete litter clean ups. Other schools collected plastic wrap and bags that were used to create a Trex bench.

Culpeper SWCD also presented this MWEE program at the Virginia Association of Science teachers conference and the Virginia Association for Environmental Education conference.

This was a successful WMEE experience that will continue to influence students in the future.