



Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
2026 Youth Conservation Camp
Sunday, July 12 - Saturday, July 18, 2026

Camper Application - Please Print Legibly or Type (Complete Front and Back)

This application serves as an initial interest form for Youth Conservation Camp. Please complete and return application to your local Soil & Water Conservation District. Contact your Local SWCD for application deadlines, as they vary by district.

The cost for camp is \$550/camper. Please reach out to your local SWCD for scholarship availability. Payment details to follow in May when campers are notified about acceptance to 2026 YCC.

Applications will be forwarded to the Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD) for final selection. This application is intended to help us learn more about applicants and their interests; it is not the final registration for camp and submission does not guarantee acceptance.

Applicant's First Name _____ **Last Name** _____
Age (as of July 13, 2025) _____ **Gender:** _____
Mailing Address: _____ **City:** _____ **Zip:** _____
Phone # _____ **E-Mail:** _____

(to receive information on application status and future paperwork, if accepted)

Name of High School Attending (2025-2026) _____

Grade Completed by June 2026 _____

Please note that to be able to attend YCC a student must be in 9th-12th grade in the 2025-2026 school year

Name of Parent or Guardian (Please Print) _____

Mailing Address _____

(if different from above) _____

Home Phone # _____ **Work/Cell Phone #** _____ **E-Mail** _____

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____

***Advisor and/or Teacher Recommendation** (teacher, scout leader, etc.) needs to be a non-family member. ***Please attach a written recommendation with this application**

Recommender's Name _____

Relation to Applicant: _____

Phone # _____ **E-Mail:** _____

For Local SWCD USE ONLY: Rank: 1 2 3 4 5

Sponsoring SWCD: _____ **Phone #** _____

SWCD Staff Contact: _____ **E-Mail** _____

SWCD Scholarship (if other please note sponsor name): Yes _____ No _____ Partial _____ **Scholarship Amount: \$** _____



VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
7308 Hanover Green Drive, Suite 100 • Mechanicsville, Virginia 23111
(804) 559-0324 or 1-800-727-6354 • Fax (804) 559-0325

Memorandum

To: SWCD Offices

From: Byron Minson, VASWCD Education & Training Coordinator

Date: January 2026

Re: 2026 Youth Conservation Camp

The Association is making plans for the 48th Anniversary of Youth Conservation Camp at Virginia Tech. Please carefully review the following information for details on the application process.

The 2026 Youth Conservation Camp will be held at Virginia Tech **Sunday, July 12 through Saturday, July 18, 2026.**

1. Applications: SWCDs are encouraged to send at least two campers to the week-long session. **Each district may submit more than two applications, but note that only the first two applicants (received by the deadline) will be automatically accepted.** Please prioritize your applicants by using the *“Local SWCD Use Only”* blank at the bottom of the application form. The first and second applicants received by the deadline will immediately be approved. Applicants beyond the 1st and 2nd will be put on a “waiting list.” Vacancies will be filled by candidates ranked third on the waiting list in order of the date they are received by the VASWCD. If there are still vacancies, the candidates ranked fourth will be accepted and so on until capacity is reached. The VASWCD will notify districts about vacancies no later than May 8th.

Applications must be received by the VASWCD office no later than May 4, 2026

Applications may be emailed to byron.minson@vaswcd.org

Or mailed-

**VASWCD Youth Camp
7308 Hanover Green Drive, Suite 100
Mechanicsville, VA 23111**

2. Cost: The total cost per student for the 2026 Youth Conservation Camp will be **\$ 550.00**. Due to instances of last minute “no-shows” we suggest that districts require a refundable or non-refundable deposit of \$75.00 - \$100.00 to demonstrate a serious intent. Districts may choose to pay part of the total cost, with campers or sponsors paying the remainder, or have campers pay the entire tuition. Districts should collect any deposit from students and send one check for full payment to VASWCD. Please **Do NOT have campers send any payment directly to VASWCD.** *If the student is receiving scholarship funding, please note that amount on the application.* **Payment is due to VASWCD no later than June 1st.** No refunds from the VASWCD will be granted after June 8th. **(Make checks payable to VASWCD Education Foundation)**

3. **Screen applicants:** Districts should screen candidates before submitting application forms. This can be handled by reviewing teacher recommendations, interviews with prospective campers by district board members or staff, or the essay submission on the application. *Applicants must be in grades 9-12 during the 2025-2026 academic school year.* Twelfth graders who graduate in May, June, July or August 2026 are eligible to attend. (***Previous campers may not attend***)

4. **Transportation to camp:** Transportation to and from camp is the sole responsibility of the camper, unless arrangements are made between the district and the camper. We do not encourage campers to drive themselves or others to camp due to safety, liability, and limited parking. However, if this is the only transportation available, we will be sending a waiver form with camper information later.

Parents, guardians, and districts are invited to attend the closing program on Saturday, July 18, 2026.

Districts are encouraged to ask campers to share their YCC experience when they return through newsletters, newspaper articles or speaking at a district or school function.

Districts are encouraged to provide additional hands-on learning experiences for the camper(s) by sponsoring “take your camper(s) to work day(s)” or encouraging their participation in other programs including Envirothon. The intent is for district staff to allow campers to broaden their horizons further through farm visits and/or other various projects or programs.

If you have any questions, call, or e-mail Byron Minson (804) 559-0324 byron.minson@vaswcd.org