



Delaware River Sojourn Educational Program Information and Details on the Wilkens Stipend for First-Time Paddlers

Educational Program:

Since 2000, the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) PA State Parks has provided funding to support the participation of students and teachers on the Delaware River Sojourn.

Through the PA State Parks Watershed Education program, the educators at Delaware Canal State Park work extensively with schools in Bucks and Northampton Counties and throughout the Delaware Watershed. Watershed Education focuses on increased understanding of watersheds and involvement in community conservation projects.

In 2008, the following educational programs (teachers and/or students) will be participating in the Delaware River Sojourn:

- Watershed Integration Program at Palisades Middle School
- Girard College 7th Grade Science
- Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences Shore Bowl winning school

Palisades Middle School Watershed Integration Program (WIP)

Given the myriad differences in individual students' learning styles and abilities, it is apparent that no single curricular structure can satisfy all needs. Alternative forms of curricula are advisable to help meet this challenge. In the establishment of a PALMS Academy program, we believe that we have found such an alternative. As structured, it will provide students with a different, yet equally excellent educational experience at an efficient cost.

The WIP Program's mission is to utilize a rigorous problem-solving approach in a personalized, student-driven, standards-based curriculum to prepare students to be successful in college and career preparation at the high school.

The Watershed Integration Program will devote the entire school year, all day/every day, to the comprehensive examination of our local waterways impacting our local watersheds. The skills and concepts taught in the traditional disciplines would be focused on interdisciplinary units centered on the local ecology. All conventional seventh grade areas of study would be incorporated into the curriculum.

7th Grade Science Program at Girard College Middle School

Located in Philadelphia, Girard was established over 160 years ago, when Stephen Girard left his entire fortune to start a school for orphans. Today, Girard students must be from single parent homes and have a proven financial need. Students must also be academically capable and free of conduct problems. The school administration supports and encourages all students to strive for excellence, to think critically and creatively, and to appreciate and respect other individuals' cultures. Girard provides college scholarships and has a 100% college placement rate.

Students in the 7th grade science program are involved in several environmental projects such as raising terrapins. Working with a high school in Ocean County, New Jersey, Girard students raise rescued August-hatch terrapins through the winter for spring release back into the Barnegat Bay.

Shore Bowl Schools

The Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences (IMCS) at Rutgers University through the guidance and support of the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education (CORE) hosts high school students from New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania at the Annual Shore Bowl. Since 2000, the Shore Bowl has engaged students in New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania in this initiative, generating fun and camaraderie, as well as:

- Broadening the awareness and understanding of high school students, teachers, and parents of the latest scientific research on the oceans
- Creating an ideal opportunity to expose teachers to the value and excitement of using the oceans as a tool for both disciplinary and cross-disciplinary science education
- Providing an opportunity for university oceanographic research programs to develop links with pre-college communities.

Anneliese Wilkens Stipend for First-Time Paddlers:

If you are a first-time ADULT paddler and would like to join us on the Sojourn, you may be able to take advantage of the Wilkens Stipend. This is a discount of \$25 off (roughly 40%) of the registration fee for your first day of paddle on the Sojourn.

This year, the Wilkens Fund is also being used to subsidize the cost for children to paddle on the Sojourn. In past years, only non-paddling children 12 and under were able to attend the Sojourn at the reduced children's rate. We wanted to try and get more children and families to paddle this year, so we asked the Wilkens family if we could use some of the stipend funds to allow paddling children 15 and under to attend the Sojourn at the reduced rate. The cost for children 15 and under, if registered prior to June 1, is \$40 (\$50 thereafter). Because of this, children 15 and under are not eligible to receive the additional 40% off for first time paddlers.

To request the discount, please send a simple letter stating that you are a first-time adult paddler and why you would like to attend the Sojourn. The Wilkens Stipend is available on a **first-come first-served** basis. If funding is available, you will receive \$25 off of the registration fee for your first day of the Sojourn. Please send availability inquiries to btobin@state.pa.us with "Sojourn Wilkens Stipend" in the subject line.

Please visit www.delawariversojourn.org for additional information on the Delaware River Sojourn.