

**Interested in our environment?
Want to learn more about how you can help?
Want to make a difference in your world?**

The Highlands Action Program and Maryland Department of Natural Resources are proud to announce the Highlands Environmental Leadership Program (HELP). Basically, if you go to high school in Garrett, Allegany, Washington or Frederick counties, you may qualify to be one of 20 lucky students who get selected for this exciting new program.



Why should you apply?

We've assembled an awesome team of scientists to share their knowledge with you at some of the coolest spots in Maryland. Over the

course of three weekends, you'll get a chance to learn about many of the most pressing environmental problems affecting western Maryland. You will gain insight into the linkage

between local, regional, and global conditions. Taking things a step further, we'll show you some ways you can truly make a difference, and help you work on your leadership and team building skills--all in a hands-on atmosphere. Chances are you'll make some great friends, and maybe even make some contacts for future job opportunities. And guaranteed, you'll be doing some things that others only dream of doing.



What will it cost?

Nothing, actually- once you arrive for each weekend we'll take care of everything you need. To encourage your participation in all three weekends, there will be a \$25 deposit that will be returned after you complete the third weekend.



Who is running this program?

A number of organizations will be helping out, but the Maryland Department of Natural Resources is the lead group for this effort. The program coordinator is Paul Kazyak, a respected aquatic scientist with an extensive background in environmental education for youth. Paul has also taught freshwater ecology courses to graduate students at Johns Hopkins University for the past twelve years, and been an Envirothon coach for the past six years.



More info?

If you would like more information about this exciting opportunity, please contact Paul Kazyak at pkazyak@dnr.state.md.us or 410.260-8607. Remember, all applications must be received by 3 pm on Friday, March 10th, 2006.



Highlands Environmental Leadership Program (HELP)

General Information and Instructions for Applicants

HELP is an environmental education and leadership development program designed and run by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Its goal is to produce future leaders who are informed about problems, have knowledge about solutions, and are most of all energized to take on the challenge of solving the environmental problems of today and tomorrow. Dynamic speakers will present information on a range of provocative environmental topics, and fast-paced activities will include informal interaction with environmental scientists. There will also be a variety of field trips, hands-on activities, career discussions, and lots of fun.

Location & Times

The program will be held at three different locations during three weekends in spring 2006. The initial weekend will occur at ThorpeWood, an environmental learning center near Thurmont, Maryland from Friday evening March 31st to Sunday afternoon April 2nd. The second weekend will take place on May 19-21 at a state park in Garrett County, and the third weekend will be held on the shores of Chesapeake Bay during 23-25 June. Delegates **MUST** be able to attend all three weekends and be willing to camp out for the latter two weekends of the program. Camping equipment will be provided as needed, and no previous camping experience is necessary.

Cost

There is **NO** cost to participate in HELP, and we will help arrange ride-sharing to transport students to meeting locations.

Eligible Applicants

- Must be in 9th through 12th grade at the time the first meeting occurs
- Should have an avid interest in science and the environment
- Should have a high level of academic performance
- Should be involved in extracurricular activities
- Must be willing to complete a practicum which includes some aspect of environmental stewardship, restoration, or protection
- If accepted into the program, you must provide us with your health insurance information, a permission slip/liability waiver, and a copy of a physical examination by a physician that is no more than 12 months old at the time the program begins.

Application Requirements

1. A completed application form, signed by you and a parent or legal guardian
2. A one or two page letter explaining why you are interested in the program. Things to consider including are: really good courses you've taken, what areas of the environment particularly interest you and how you developed that interest, what your current career goals may be, and a description of any relevant volunteer experiences, field trips, etc.
3. A copy of your most recent academic transcript
4. A sealed letter of support from a teacher or other mentor who can address why you should be accepted into the program

Submission Instructions

Include items 1-4 in a single envelope and mail it to Paul Kazyak, Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources, Tawes State Office Bldg., C-2, Annapolis, MD 21401. All submissions must be received by 3 pm on Friday, March 10th, 2006. All applicants will be notified shortly thereafter by email.

Questions

Please forward any questions about the program to Paul Kazyak at 410.260-8607 or email pkazyak@dnr.state.md.us.

Highlands Environmental Leadership Program
Delegate Application Form

Name: _____
Last First Middle Init.

Gender: Male/Female (*circle one*) **Grade Level:** _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Home Telephone: (_____) _____ - _____

Email Address: _____
Print or Type *clearly*

Parent or Legal Guardians' Full Names: _____

School Name & County: _____

Applicant Check List:

- Delegate Application Form (this page)
- Typed letter detailing your qualifications, interests, and reason for applying
- Current academic transcript
- A letter of support from a teacher or mentor

Applicant Certification: I certify by my signature that I am currently in 9th-12th grade, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, all the information I have provided on and accompanying this application is true, correct, and made in good faith. If selected, I will attend and participate in all scheduled program activities of HELP

Applicant's Signature: _____

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____