



Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week

**Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week is a time to celebrate
the cultures, history and natural beauty of the nation's
largest estuary**

History

- In 2016, the Chesapeake Bay Commission designated nine days each June as Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week.
 - In previous years, the week started with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Clean the Bay Day and ended with Bernie Fowler's Wade-In.
 - 2026: June 6 - 14
- Promote the event through social media and in-person events
 - Serves the dual purpose of showcasing the amazing success stories, achievements and resources of the Bay while also encouraging people to get outside and get involved.

Past Themes

- **2025:** Bay in your Backyard
 - Primary subthemes: Wonders of the Bay, Protectors of the Bay
- **2024:** Unsung Heroes
 - Primary subthemes: Habitat Heroes, Tide Turners
- **2023:** Chesapeake Journeys
- **2022:** Restoration Brings Results
- **2021:** Recreation
- **2020:** Tributaries
- **2019:** All Hands

2026: Built by Nature, Protected Together

- June 6 - June 14, 2026
- Theme: Built by Nature, Protected Together
 - This year, we'll be celebrating and showcasing the natural elements of our Bay and its watershed that create and sustain the nation's largest estuary.
 - We'll also draw attention to the leaders, communities, organizations and more that come together to defend and restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.
- Primary Subthemes: TBD
 - We will have two to three arching themes for the week
- Daily subthemes!
 - Each year, we have daily themes that involved partners can use to center their messaging
- Graphics and maps!

What do we provide?

- The Chesapeake Bay Program will publish a press release and blog post
- Sample proclamation templates
- Social media toolkit
- Flickr gallery for relevant images
- Events calendar
- Support!
 - Let us know if you have questions

Events



Post your event on the Chesapeake Bay Program calendar

The types of events we post include:

- Volunteer events (cleanups, invasive species removals, plantings, etc.)
- Tree or plant giveaways
- Nature walks, hikes, geocaching
- Boat, canoeing and kayaking trips
- Environmental workshops (composting, gardening, native plants, rain barrels, etc.)
- Environmental art events

We reserve the right to not post events that don't fit these categories.

Submit your event by filling out the information below.

Email *

Valid email

This form is collecting emails. [Change settings](#)

Event name *

Short answer text

Time of event *

Time



Discover the Chesapeake

Learn the Issues

State of the Chesapeake

Take Action

In the News

Who We Are

What We Do

TAKE ACTION > ATTEND AN EVENT

Attend an Event

Explore your connection to the Bay at an event near you. Events range from nature workshops and hikes for children and families to restoration activities like trash clean-ups and invasive plant removals. If you would like to see your organization's event on the calendar, fill out this form.



Upcoming Events

Grid View

List View

WEDNESDAY

MARCH 16, 2022

Help Green Richmond Libraries

Volunteer to assist with tree, shrub and perennial installation!

[View Event Details >>](#)

RICHMOND, VA

WEDNESDAY

MARCH 16, 2022

Bringing the Bay Home: The Role of Photography and Writing in the Restoration Effort

Learn how photographs and writing engage the public in the challenges faced by the Bay.

[View Event Details >>](#)

VIRTUAL

WEDNESDAY

MARCH 16, 2022

Crab Industry Catalysts: Coulboure and Jewett Seafood Packing Company

This year's webinar series features the enterprising businesspeople that have found opportunity and inspiration on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay.

[View Event Details >>](#)

ST. MICHAEL, MD

WEDNESDAY

MARCH 16, 2022

Women Leaders in Climate Action

Join a conversation with women leaders in the environmental space to understand climate change's impacts on women and children.

[View Event Details >>](#)

VIRTUAL

WEDNESDAY

MARCH 16, 2022

History of Spiritualism in Baltimore

WEDNESDAY

MARCH 16, 2022

Women's History Month, A Culinary Journey

March 2022

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week June 4-12, 2022

The Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure, and plays a role in the lives of the 18 million people who call its watershed home. [Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week](#) is a time to celebrate the cultures, history and natural beauty of the nation's largest estuary. Discover your connection to the Bay by attending one of the events on our calendar.

Social Media Toolkit

2025

Maps

HOW AM I CONNECTED TO THE CHESAPEAKE BAY?



Chesapeake Bay AWARENESS WEEK

HOW AM I CONNECTED TO THE CHESAPEAKE BAY?

- The Chesapeake Bay watershed includes 206 counties covering parts of six states and D.C. Each local community plays a part in the health of local rivers and the Bay.
- Hundreds of thousands of creeks, streams and rivers thread through the Chesapeake Bay region. These tributaries send fresh water to the Bay, offer vital habitat and provide people with opportunities to fish, boat and swim.

Chesapeake Bay AWARENESS WEEK

THE POTOMAC REGION

- The Potomac River flows for 383 miles, from Fairfax Stone in West Virginia to the Chesapeake Bay at Point Lookout, Maryland.
- The Potomac's major tributaries include the Anacostia, Antietam, C&O Canal, C&D, Conococheague, Monocacy, North Branch, South Branch, Occoquan, Savage, Seneca and Shenandoah.

Chesapeake Bay AWARENESS WEEK

THE RAPPAHANNOCK REGION

- At 195 miles, the Rappahannock is Virginia's longest free-flowing river.
- The Rappahannock River's major tributaries are the Rappahannock and the Hazel River.
- As the Rappahannock River meanders through Virginia, the landscapes of the watershed shift from mountains to farms to developed cities.

Chesapeake Bay AWARENESS WEEK

THE YORK REGION

- The York watershed begins in the Blue Ridge Mountains with two main tributaries, the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers. It flows into the Bay near Gloucester Point, Virginia.
- The Lower York River is one of the ten tributaries in the Chesapeake watershed selected for oyster restoration. Oysters support a key commercial fishery and filter up to 50 gallons of water each day.

Chesapeake Bay AWARENESS WEEK

THE SUSQUEHANNA REGION

- The Susquehanna River flows from Cooperstown, N.Y., through Pennsylvania to Havre de Grace, Md., and the Bay—a 444-mile journey.
- The Susquehanna River is the Chesapeake Bay's largest tributary, providing 50 percent of the fresh water that flows into the Bay.
- The Susquehanna River sends about 19 million gallons of water per minute into the Chesapeake Bay.

Chesapeake Bay AWARENESS WEEK

THE PATUXENT REGION

- The Patuxent is the largest river that lies entirely in Maryland.
- The Patuxent River is home to more than 100 species of fish.

Chesapeake Bay AWARENESS WEEK

THE EASTERN SHORE REGION

- The Eastern Shore region is home to the Chester, Elk, Sassafraz, Choptank, Miles, Wye, Nanticoke, Marshyhope and Pocomoke rivers.
- The Nanticoke River starts in Delaware and runs for 64 miles before reaching the Chesapeake Bay.

Chesapeake Bay AWARENESS WEEK

THE WESTERN SHORE REGION

- The Chesapeake Bay's western shore region includes the Patapsco River, Back River, Severn River, South River, Magalloway River and the Baltimore Harbor, as well as major cities like Baltimore and Annapolis.
- The Patapsco River runs for 39 miles through Baltimore and into the Chesapeake Bay.

Chesapeake Bay AWARENESS WEEK

THE JAMES REGION

- The James River's major tributaries include the Appomattox, Chickahominy, Cowpasture, Elizabeth, Hardware, Jackson, Meary, Rivanna and Tye rivers.
- In 2019, more than 300 breeding pairs of eagles were found along the James River. This was once the recovery goal for the entire watershed!

Chesapeake Bay AWARENESS WEEK

Proclamation template

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Chesapeake Bay is the largest and most productive estuary in the United States, with its watershed spanning six states and the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, the Chesapeake Bay watershed, covering 64,000 square miles, is an extraordinary and vital natural resource, with some of the nation's most productive farm and forest lands; and

WHEREAS, the Chesapeake Bay is fed by 50 major tributaries, including the Susquehanna, Potomac, Rappahannock, York, and James Rivers, and stretches 200 miles from Havre de Grace, Maryland, to Norfolk, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Chesapeake Bay watershed is home to more than 18 million people, many of whom rely upon the watershed's natural resources for their livelihood and recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, an important source of food for the **STATE** and the east coast of the United States, the Chesapeake Bay produces more than 400 million pounds of seafood harvest each year; and

WHEREAS, the more than 76,000 farms in the Chesapeake Bay watershed contribute more than \$6.8 billion in value added contributions to the economy in the region and provide food to millions of Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Chesapeake Bay's tributaries in **STATE** are an important source of drinking water, which is essential for public health and economic growth and a vital resource for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the rich history, pivotal economic importance, and astounding beauty of the Chesapeake Bay watershed never cease to amaze residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, the **LOCAL GOVERNMENT** is in the **NAME OF WATERSHED**, which is important to the character and quality of life of the community and ultimately the health of the Chesapeake Bay; and

WHEREAS, the **TRUSTED SOURCE** has recognized the importance of Chesapeake Bay Week Awareness Week and has encouraged its members to do the same;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **NAME, TITLE** of **LOCAL GOVERNMENT**, do hereby proclaim June 6-14, 2026 as

CHESAPEAKE BAY AWARENESS WEEK

in the **LOCAL GOVERNMENT** and urge all citizens to recognize the importance of this observance and to participate in events, activities, and educational programs designed to increase awareness of the importance of the Chesapeake Bay watershed in our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have here unto set my hand and caused the Seal of **LOCAL GOVERNMENT** to be affixed this **DATE**.

Name DATE

Next steps!

- Subthemes developed
- Social media toolkit created
- Press release and blog post written
- Proclamation template shared
- By late-May, all materials will be publicly accessible and shared

Thank You!