

The mission of Friends of the Rappahannock is to be the voice and active force for a healthy and scenic Rappahannock River.

Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR) currently hosts over 7,000 students each year through environmental education field experiences. Led by staff from FOR, students participate in a variety of educational curricula about river ecology, watersheds, human impact, and Environmental STEM challenges. All of FOR's programs align with the Virginia Standards of Learning enabling teachers to depend on FOR for quality, inquiry-based programs that supplement their in-class lessons. FOR currently has a team of Environmental Educators leading students through the curriculum at our 17-acre nature preserve in Fredericksburg, 132-acre nature preserve of our partners at Crow's Nest Research Center, at individual schools, and at other local outdoor spaces, such as local parks.



In addition to the science inquiry field experiences, FOR also regularly leads students through hands-on restoration experiences including riparian buffer plantings, living shoreline plantings, invasive plant species removal, litter clean-ups, oyster restoration, rain barrel workshops, advocacy campaigns, bioretention gardens, streambank restoration, floating treatment wetlands and more! FOR has implemented systemic MWEs for various grade levels across the Rappahannock Watershed. Systemic MWEs are extensive undertakings that involve all students across an entire grade level through all elements of a MWE. FOR provides the professional development for educators to become MWE ambassadors for their schools.



In addition, FOR has built and maintained strong working relationships with partner organizations within the Rappahannock River basin including local, state and federal organizations, as well as businesses and other nonprofits. These local professionals have worked with FOR to provide environmental education programs for many of the region's schools. FOR's ability to build mutually beneficial partnerships with other organizations ultimately leverages FOR's programs and provides students with experiences from a variety of professionals, resulting in greater collective impact.



Visit Friends of the Rappahannock at [riverfriends.org](http://riverfriends.org).