

ST. CROIX YOUTH SUMMIT

Virtual
Conference



April 21
9:30 am - 2:30 pm

This virtual conference is for 5th-8th grade students who want to learn more about the St. Croix River watershed and its inhabitants.

Inhabitants and Habitats: Who lives in your watershed?

STUDENTS WILL LEARN:

- The **incredible ecology** of the **St. Croix National Scenic Riverway**, the first Wild and Scenic River National Park.
- **Inspiring stories** from their peers of environmental projects they are working on in their classrooms or at home.
- The **people indigenous to our region** and the traditional environmental knowledge they have passed down for thousands of years
- **Fascinating creatures** that live in our watershed, including raptors and reptiles from Carpenter Nature Center
- **Soil health and microbes** with the Soil Your Undies campaign!
- **Macroinvertebrates** and what they tell us about water quality...AND MORE!

SPEAKERS FROM:



INFO | REGISTER: wildriversconservancy.org/events

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4.21.22 SCHEDULE

9:30 am **Welcome**

9:35am – 10:20 am **Opening Conversation with National Park Service**

Caring for hundreds of miles of river is no easy task! It takes many people, you included, to help keep this river healthy so animals can make it their home and so people now and in the future can enjoy this national park. National Park Service staff from multiple areas of expertise will describe how they protect and preserve the lands and waters of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway.

10:30 am – 11:20 am **Concurrent Sessions**

Inspiring Youth Projects

Olivia Burns, New Richmond High School and Harley Fredriksen, Northern Waters Environmental School

Animals of the St. Croix

Abbey Holden, Carpenter Nature Center

A Watershed in Jeopardy

Jeremiah Walters and Katie Sickmann, Wild Rivers Conservancy

11:20 am - 12:30 pm **LUNCH BREAK**

12:30 pm - 1:20 pm **Concurrent Sessions**

What Many Farmers are Doing to Protect Water, And Why It's Hard

Tara Daun, Farmer-Led Watershed Councils of the St. Croix and Red Cedar Rivers



Trout in the Classroom

Stephan Papp, River Falls School District

1:30 pm - 2:20 pm **Concurrent Sessions**

Raptors of the River Valley

Abbey Holden, Carpenter Nature Center

Wild Rice: Interweaving knowledge types to protect the cultural and ecological integrity of Manoomin

Kathy Smith and Amy Cottrell, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission

Wildlife and Plant Ecology in the St. Croix River Basin

Christian Cold, Retired DNR Wildlife Technician and Educator

4.22.22 OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

School Yard Biological Diversity Investigation

Have you ever wondered how many birds visit your school yard? How many insects wander the playground? Or if the school lawn has more plants than just grass? Although humans have changed the natural habitat, you can still find biodiversity almost everywhere you look. We are encouraging every school to get outside and take a look.

During Thursday's Youth Summit, you will learn about some inhabitants of the St. Croix Watershed. On Friday, we invite you to explore your school yard and share what you find! We will provide resources for your school to look for the inhabitants of your schoolyard and participate in the Biological Diversity Investigation.