

Fort Belvoir, VA Earth Day Activities

Accotink Bay Wildlife Refuge Environmental Education Center at Fort Belvoir hosted a variety of opportunities for community members to celebrate Earth Day.

Fairfax Community Earth Day – Arbor Day Celebration: Environmental Education Center Staff participated in the event by hosting an exhibit designed to educate the community about the refuge and educational programs it offers. Staff used a display that highlighted the refuge, a selection of programs for various age groups related to Raccoons and an interactive game to educate community members about predator and prey camouflage.

On Earth Day weekend, the Center supported the **Boy Scout Camporee** hosted at Fort Belvoir. The Center offered educational programs on tree identification and signs of wildlife. Over 100 Boy Scouts enjoyed hands on learning as they used leaf observations to identify local trees, hiked trails and learned to identify signs of wildlife.



The Center also sponsored a **shoreline cleanup** for the Boy Scouts as a closing activity for the Camporee. Scouts collected trash along a mile of the Tompkins Basin Shoreline. They then delivered the recyclable materials collected during the cleanup to the Fort Belvoir's Recycling Center.

Finally, the Center sponsored a **storm drain stenciling** volunteer project in Herryford, a new housing community. The goal of the project was to raise awareness among the residents about where the rainfall in their area goes and its power to transport a variety of pollutants into the Chesapeake Bay. After an informational program on the local watershed and actions that can take keep it clean, sixteen participants stenciled "Chesapeake Bay Drainage" on storm drains within the community. An informational flyer about the program was also distributed to all the residents of the new housing community.

