

# 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Army Earth Day Program at MTC Fort Pickett

The 5th Annual Army Earth Day and Environmental Awareness Event was hosted by the Virginia Army National Guard at MTC Fort Pickett in Blackstone, Virginia. Attendance from the general public nearly doubled this year with over 300 people in attendance on the beautiful spring afternoon.

The skies had cleared from the early morning storms and the temperature reached the low 70's as the crowd mingled through the environmental education exhibits on display around the lake. Several state agencies and other cooperators participated including the Va. Department of Environmental Quality, the Va. Department of



Smokey Bear poses for pictures with the young children.



Kids pretend to fly the Blackhawk helicopter.



Children get up close and hands on to learn about largemouth bass and other freshwater fish species.

Game and Inland Fisheries, the Va. Department of Forestry, Southside Electric Cooperative, and the Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation to name a few. These groups teamed together with Fort Pickett and the Virginia National Guard to provide environmental outreach and education on topics such as fish ecology, aquatic insects and macro invertebrates, prehistoric archaeology, fire safety, map reading for kids, worm



Participants enjoy making clay pottery like the Native Americans that once lived here.



The MTC Fort Pickett Forestry team helps children make pine cone bird feeders.

composting, snakes, energy conservation, the benefits of wetlands, and water quality. The children really enjoyed meeting Smokey Bear, making pine cone bird feeders, making clay pottery, and exploring the armored vehicles and the Blackhawk helicopter.

The event was enjoyed by young and old alike, with everyone having fun and learning more about the environment in which they live. The Virginia Army National Guard works hard to protect the natural resources on their training lands and they were glad so many local citizens enjoyed participating in the event.



Children check out the armored vehicles.