****

**An Expedition to Inspire Watershed Action**

**What is Schuylkill Acts & Impacts?**

Our typical *Schuylkill Acts & Impacts* program is a weeklong watershed expedition along the 120-miles of the Schuylkill River exploring the connections between land-use and water quality. Twelve students from the 5 counties in the watershed experienced first-hand the impact of human development on water quality through guided tours, fieldwork, water sampling and interactive presentations with policy makers and planners. The program included camping each night and several kayak adventures.

Due to COVID exposure, this year we are offering a modified version of the program. Overall goals of the program remain the same, but format differs. Students from each of the 5 counties will participate in two days (9am-5pm) of activities which will include water sampling, land-use explorations, and a kayak trip. Eight students will be selected to participate at each of 4 locations.

Location and target topics will be as follows:

1) June 19 & 20-Schuylkill County: The impact of legacy coal mining on water quality

2) June 21 & 22-Berks County: Agricultural impacts including erosion and manure management

3) June 23 & 24-Chester/Montgomery Counties: The role of land preservation in watershed health

4) June 25 & 26-Philadelphia County: The impacts of stormwater and impervious surfaces on water resources.

Daily reflection and discussion will challenge participants to think about their own habits and use of water, how they relate to others and provide them with tools to take action in their own communities in the watershed.

All participants will be required to participate in a ***virtual*** Student Summit on Sunday June 27th from 1:00-3:00pm. Students from the 4 different groups will share their findings from their 2-day exploration including their water quality data, and their reflections and conclusions about human impact on river health.

**When and where?**

*Schuylkill Acts & Impacts* is scheduled from **Saturday, June 19 to Sunday, June 27, 2021** with each group’s tentative pick up/drop off locations as follows (9am/5pm):

June 19 & 20 - **Schuylkill County:** Schuylkill Haven Island Park/Port Clinton Park

June 21 & 22 - **Berks County:** Jim Dietrich Park/Peter Yarnell Park

June 23& 24 - **Chester/Montgomery:** Schuylkill River Greenways

June 25 & 26 - **Philadelphia:** Fairmount Water Works

**Virtual Summit for ALL participants**: Sunday June 27 @ 1pm – 3pm

**Who can apply for Schuylkill Acts & Impacts?**

*Schuylkill Acts & Impacts* is open to all students in grades 9 through 12 from Schuylkill, Berks, Chester, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties. Applicants must be enrolled in high school at the time they submit their application, however graduating seniors will be considered.

**What equipment do I need?**

Students will be provided with transportation during the day from drop-off point, lunch, and snacks. All necessary gear for kayaking, as well as instruction will be provided by *Take It Outdoors.* Students should come dressed to be outdoors. Please bring hand sanitizer, masks, a reusable water bottle, and water shoes for the kayaking day.

**What if I have never kayaked before?**

No worries! This program offers the perfect opportunity to learn how to kayak. *Take It Outdoors* leaders are highly experienced outdoor guides and will teach participants everything they need to know.

**Can I stay connected after the expedition?**

After participating in the *Schuylkill Acts & Impacts* expedition, if students demonstrate initiative and interest in learning more about environmental issues, they will be given access to a broad network of individuals and resources, such as prospective internship opportunities, contacts with volunteer-based organizations, and other conservation leadership materials. *Schuylkill Acts & Impacts* is a great way to learn leadership skills, build a resume for college, and acquire community service hours.

 **How much does the expedition cost?**

*Schuylkill Acts and Impacts* is supported by the generous contribution of individuals and organizations. There is no cost for student participation.

**What organizations are responsible for making the *Schuylkill Acts & Impacts* program possible?**

*Schuylkill Headwaters Association*, *Fairmount Water Works, Stroud Water Research Center* and *Schuylkill River Greenways*

 *Schuylkill Headwaters Association* (SHA) is a small nonprofit organization founded in 1998 with a mission to promote the environmental integrity of the Schuylkill River, its tributaries, and the watershed that lies within the boundaries of Schuylkill County.

*Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center* (FWW) is the watershed education center of the Philadelphia Water Department. Its mission is to foster stewardship of our shared water resources by encouraging informed decisions about the use of land and water. FWW collaborates with partners to instill an appreciation for the connections between daily life and the natural environment.

*Stroud Water Research Center* (Stroud) is dedicated to understanding the ecology of streams, rivers, and their watersheds – both pristine and polluted. Stroud’s freshwater research, education, and watershed restoration programs enable businesses, policymakers, landowners, and individuals to make informed decisions that affect water quality and availability around the world.

*Schuylkill River Greenways National Heritage Area* (SRG)’s mission is to connect residents, visitors and communities to the Schuylkill River and the Schuylkill River Trail by serving as a catalyst for civic engagement and economic development in order to foster stewardship of the watershed and its heritage.

**How to submit an application:**

1. Applicants should **complete the application form** **and short answer questions** on the following pages.
2. A parent or guardian MUST sign the **attached parental consent form**.

All documents should be **signed, scanned, and emailed as PDF files** to Alexa Smith at outreach@schuylkillheadwaters.org **by 4:00 pm on Friday, April 30, 2021.** Please email or call Alexa Smith at 570-391-3336 with any questions prior to submission.

If electronic submission is not possible, please mail hard copies to be received by April 30th to: Schuylkill Headwaters Association

Attention: Schuylkill Acts & Impacts Application

P.O. Box 1385

Pottsville, PA 17901

**How are applicants chosen?**

Participation is first come, first served. Only complete applications will be considered. **Final selection of the *Schuylkill Acts & Impacts* participants will be announced on or around Friday, May 7, 2021**.

**Application checklist:**

* Students must be currently enrolled in high school (9th-12th grade). Graduating seniors will be considered.
* Students must live or attend school in Schuylkill, Berks, Chester, Montgomery, or Philadelphia counties.
* Upon selection, student participants and their parent or guardian must complete all necessary medical forms, waivers, and consent forms in order to attend.
* Selected students must participate in both program days and the Student Summit on Sunday June 27th from 1pm-3pm.
* Selected students must actively engage in environmental service work, team-building activities, and reflection exercises during the orientation and expedition.

**Schuylkill Acts & Impacts:**

**An Expedition to Inspire Watershed Action**

**Official Application**

Applications should be **signed, scanned, and emailed as PDF files** to Alexa Smith at outreach@schuylkillheadwaters.org **by 4:00 pm on Friday, April 30, 2021.** Please email or call Alexa Smith at 570-391-3336 with any questions prior to submission.

If electronic submission is not possible, please mail hard copies to be received by April 30th to:

Schuylkill Headwaters Association

Attention: Schuylkill Acts & Impacts Application

P.O. Box 1385

Pottsville, PA 17901

*A complete application includes: Personal Information, Short Answer Questions, and Parent/Guardian Information* ***and signature****.*

*Incomplete applications will not be considered.*

**Applicant’s Personal Information**

**Name:** Click here to enter text.

**Email:** Click here to enter text.

**Phone:** Click here to enter text.

**Date of Birth:** Click here to enter text.

**Gender:** Click here to enter text.

**Address:** Click here to enter text.

**City:** Click here to enter text.

**State: Pennsylvania**

**Zip Code:** Click here to enter text.

**County (Schuylkill, Berks, Chester, Montgomery, Philadelphia):** Click here to enter text.

**School District:** Click here to enter text.

**Current Year in School (Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior):** Click here to enter text.

**Graduation Date (Seniors only):** Click here to enter text.

**County you will participate in:** Click here to enter text.

**Short Answer Questions**

Applicants should answer each question completely and in no more than 3-5 sentences each. Responses must be typed.

1. **Why would you like to participate in the *Schuylkill Acts & Impacts* program, and what can you contribute (special skills, knowledge, etc.) to the program?**

Click here to enter text.

1. **Have you thought about a career in an environmental field? If so, describe your interest. If not, what are you interested in pursuing?**

Click here to enter text.

1. **We will utilize reflection (i.e. discussions, journaling) throughout the *Schuylkill Acts & Impacts* program. What importance do you think reflection has in a program such as this?**

Click here to enter text.

1. **How did you learn/hear about the *Schuylkill Acts & Impacts* program?**

Click here to enter text.

**Parent/Guardian Information**

**Name:** Click here to enter text.

**Email:** Click here to enter text.

**Cell Phone:** Click here to enter text.

**Home Phone:** Click here to enter text.

**Address:** Click here to enter text.

**City:** Click here to enter text.

**State: Pennsylvania**

**Zip Code:** Click here to enter text.

PARENTAL CONSENT: \*Please note that additional information, including more extensive consent forms and waivers, will be required from selected applicants and their guardians.

*I (print parent or guardian name) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ hereby give my consent for (print student name) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to apply for and participate in the 2021 Schuylkill Acts & Impacts watershed program. I will be able to provide transportation to and from the drop-off location.*

#### Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

#### Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_