

Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers 2019 SUCCESS STORY

By: Guardians of the Brandywine
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2019 Canoe Camp Series

SUMMARY

The sojourns that we ran were a terrific success. Over the course of 2 weeks, one 5-day sojourn took place with 10 girls and one 3-day sojourn took place for 13 girls, all of middle-school age.

Each day covered a different part of the Brandywine Creek, with Camp #1 covering 20 miles and Camp #2 covering 12 miles (4 miles per day).

Each day, the canoeing was supplemented with teambuilding, skill building and stewardship activities. The goals of the camps were 1) to increase awareness, importance, and appreciation of our local water resources; 2) to engage youth in understanding their role in the sustainability of our water resources; 3) to encourage girls, in the absence of boys, to develop scientific research competency; and 4) to give girls an opportunity to work with and rely on other girls and themselves while gaining competencies in teamwork and canoeing skills.

All girls took a pre-test and a post-test. The average increase in knowledge of watersheds was 29%. Overwhelmingly on the evaluations, “canoeing, swimming, playing and floating” were the highlights. The least favorite activities were the wastewater treatment plant tour and the spiders! The greatest learning that the girls reported were learning to canoe and protecting and learning about the creek.

If the girls had not been at canoe camp, they reported that they would have been “hanging out, beach, pool, other camps.”



FUNDING

Grant Award: \$4,000.00

Total Match: \$9,675.75

Total Project Cost: \$13,675.75

