

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Teachers From Gloucester, Mathews, and Middlesex Counties Complete First Dragon Run Environmental Academy Mentorship (DREAM)



Local teachers explore the Dragon Run by kayak

While this may look like a fun day kayaking with friends, these educators represent three different counties - Gloucester, Mathews, and Middlesex - who participated in a three-day professional in-service program, DREAM (Dragon Run Environmental Academy Mentorship). DREAM was sponsored by the Friends of the Dragon Run. DREAM was made possible in part through a generous grant from Dominion Energy.

The teachers, pictured left to right: Stephanie Sowers, Stephanie Bowen, Jennifer Patterson, Natalie Fleet, Natalie Smith, and Judy Green explored the Dragon Run watershed in kayaks, on foot (hiking trails), and conducted water quality experiments. Instructors for DREAM included Friends of Dragon Run volunteers with the teachers pictured below. Instruction was based on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) program. The teachers will share information about what they learned with

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their seventh-grade students during the 2023-2024 school year. The Friends of Dragon Run will continue to be a mentorship resource for the teachers for pursuing MWEE based programs.



Pictured left to right: Terry Skinner, Jennifer Patterson, Jack Kauffman, Judy Green, Carol Kauffman, Natalie Fleet, Stephanie Bowen, Stephanie Sowers, Susan Walton-Fary, Natalie Smith, Sherry Rollins, Molly Broderson, and Bambi Thompson (Teachers are wearing red FODR hats.)



Conducting a water quality experiment

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Terry Skinner and the teachers explored the trails with a creative scavenger hunt that required them to integrate their own background knowledge with new ideas and ecosystem principles.



Teachers learn how to access photos and videos of the Dragon Run watershed to use with their students.



Judy Green and others created "Greetings from the Dragon Run" postcards capturing their reflections of the day.

Friends of Dragon Run (FODR) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Our mission is to protect, preserve, and encourage the wise use of the Dragon Run watershed. We fulfill our mission through education, stewardship, and citizen science. For more information about Dragon Run and to join our activities, visit DragonRun.org.

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