2026 Future Leaders of Our Waters Fellowship Application

Join us for a transformative, year-long leadership journey tailored for high school students passionate about safeguarding the James River and inspiring change in their communities. By the end of the program, FLOW participants will have built confidence as leaders and collaborators, understand how environmental issues connect to justice, policy, and community well-being, gain real-world experience in field science, advocacy, and project design, and feel more comfortable and connected in outdoor environments.

All sessions are held at the James A. Buzzard River Education Center (Richmond, VA). This is a selective program; participants must commit to the full year and attend all sessions.

* Indicates required question

Participant Personal Information

1. First Name *

2. Last Name *

3. Pronouns *

Mark only one oval.

- She/Her
- He/Him
- They/Them
- Other:

4. Participant Email *

5. Phone Number (Mobile Preferred) *

6. Street Address *

7. City *

8. State *

9. Zip Code *

10. School Division *

Mark only one oval.

- Amherst
- Appomattox
- Bedford
- Buckingham
- Buena Vista
- Campbell
- Chesterfield
- Hampton
- Hanover
- Henrico
- Hopewell
- Lynchburg
- New Kent
- Newport News
- Richmond
- Rockbridge
- Surry
- WJCC
- York
- Private School

Other:

11. School Name *

12. Grade in Fall 2026 * Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- 10th
- 11th
- 12th

13. Shirt Size (Adult Unisex) *

Mark only one oval.

- XS
- S
- M
- L
- XL
- XXL

14. How did you hear about the FLOW Fellowship? * Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- Caregiver (Parent, Guardian)
- Friends
- JRA Educator Presentation
- Past Student Participant
- Print Ad/Poster/Postcard
- Radio
- Social Media (Facebook, Instagram)
- Teacher

Participant Demographic Information

We invite you to complete this section voluntarily. Your answers or decision not to answer will not impact your application. If you choose to complete this portion, your answers will be used to research how our program might reach a more diverse population. If you prefer not to disclose this information, please select "Prefer Not to Answer" for each question.

15. Are you Hispanic or Latino? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes, Hispanic or Latino
- No, not Hispanic or Latino
- Prefer Not to Answer

16. How would you best describe yourself? Check all that apply. *

Check all that apply.

- [ ] East Asian
- [ ] Indigenous, American Indian or Alaska Native
- [ ] Middle Eastern or North African Native
- [ ] Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- [ ] South Asian
- [ ] Southeast Asian
- [ ] White or European
- [ ] None of these
- [ ] Prefer Not to Answer
- [ ] Other: _____

17. How would you describe your gender identity? Check all that apply. *

Mark only one oval.

- ( ) Non-binary
- ( ) Female
- ( ) Male
- ( ) Prefer Not to Answer
- ( ) Other: _____

Application Questionnaire

Please take your time reading through each question and answering thoughtfully in your own voice (In other words, **please do not use AI to complete these questions**.) Keep your answers connected to your own life experience.

18. Why do you want to participate in the FLOW Fellowship? What do you hope to gain from your FLOW experience? *
(1500 character limit)

19. This program will require self-leadership in order to remain on track. Describe a time when you managed your time and accomplished a goal independently. (1500 character limit) *

20. This program also requires team collaboration and navigating group dynamics. Describe a time when you accomplished a goal as a part of a team? (1500 character limit) *

21. We recognize that this program is a significant time commitment. How do you plan to prioritize participation and what support do you have for ensuring you see the program through? (1500 character limit) *

22. What uniquely qualifies you to be a part of this program that you have not had an opportunity to speak to yet in this application? (1500 character limit) *

Accessibility and Support Needs

23. Do you have learning, behavioral, sensory or emotional support needs relevant to program participation? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes *Skip to question 24*
- No
- Prefer Not To Say

Accommodations

24. What accommodations will help you be successful? *

25. Anything else staff should know to support you? *

Caregiver Acknowledgment

I acknowledge that my student has applied to participate in the James River FLOW Fellowship.

If accepted they will be required to participate in a week long summit August 10 – 14, 2026 from 8am - 4pm. Additionally, they are required to attend all monthly session from 9am - 4pm. Current dates are tentative and subject to change:

- Sept 19, 2026
- Oct 17, 2026
- Nov 21, 2026
- Dec 12, 2026
- Jan 9, 2027
- Feb 20, 2027
- Mar 12, 2027
- Mar 29, 2027
- April 11, 2027

Failure to participate in any session may lead to removal from the program.

26. Full Name *

27. Relationship to Participant *

28. Caregiver Email Address *

29. Phone Number (Mobile Preferred) *

30. By initialing this, I have read and agree to the above commitment. *

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