

Explore the Science, Design, and Innovation Shaping a Sustainable Future

Ready to turn your passion for the environment into a real-world impact? The Watershed Institute invites high school students to spend a week or more learning directly from scientists, architects, and sustainability professionals who are shaping the future of our planet.

Each session combines hands-on fieldwork, expert mentorship, and professional skill-building, giving you the opportunity to explore potential careers, earn certifications, and strengthen your college applications. Whether you're testing water quality, designing eco-friendly buildings, or studying wildlife in the field, you'll gain the tools—and the inspiration—to make meaningful environmental change.

Choose your week, dive into discovery, and start building your green career path today.



Scan here for more information



The Watershed Institute
31 Titus Mill Road
Pennington, NJ 08534
www.thewatershed.org

Summer Programs for High School Students
Empowering Youth Environmental Leaders
2026



Green Architecture: Designing a Sustainable Future

Create. Innovate. Build for Tomorrow.

July 6-10 \$525

What if you could design buildings that help heal the planet instead of harm it? This week, join award-winning architects Michael Farewell (Farewell Architects LLC) and Jason Kliwinski (The Green Building Center and Designs for Life) to explore how sustainable design can shape a greener future.

You'll work side by side with professionals to learn the foundations of green architecture, renewable energy, and eco-friendly materials. Then, put your knowledge into action:

- analyze buildings on the Watershed Reserve,
- design your own environmentally friendly structure using Computer-Aided Drafting (CAD), architectural software, and physical modeling tools.
- visit a sustainably built office and workshop and take a walking tour of historic Lambertville, discovering how towns along waterways can balance preservation, design, and nature.
- present your project to local architects and community leaders—just like a professional designer.

Water and Climate: Princeton High-Meadows Environmental Institute Explore the Future of Water and Climate Solutions

July 13-17 \$575

Dive into one of the most pressing challenges of our generation—climate change—and

Scan here for more information



discover how water connects it all. This summer, step into the world of cutting-edge environmental research at Princeton University's High Meadows Environmental Institute.

Work alongside Princeton scientists and engineers to explore how climate change affects our planet's water systems—from rivers and rainfall to groundwater and oceans. Through hands-on experiments, lab tours, and interactive activities, you'll learn how climate and water science can lead to real solutions for a sustainable future.

You'll meet experts from Princeton's Civil and Environmental Engineering Department and the Integrated Groundwater Modeling Center, see research in action, and experience what it's like to be part of a top-tier university's environmental science community.

Field Research: Science in Action Explore. Discover. Make an Impact. July 20-24 \$525

Step into the world of real environmental science. This adventure gives you the chance to meet researchers in the field, get hands-on with active projects, and experience what it's really like to study nature up close.

Work alongside scientists studying water quality, native trees, endangered species, and migratory birds! You'll see how research helps protect ecosystems and learn the field skills used by professionals in biology, ecology, and environmental science.

Meet and learn from:

- Alex Kisurin (NJ DEP) and Dr. Steve Tuorto (The Watershed Institute) – investigating freshwater mussels and water quality.

- Dr. Randye Rutberg (Hunter College) – exploring how invasive species affect native tree growth.
- Chiara Smorada (Princeton University).
- Allison Jackson (The Watershed Institute) – researching bluebirds and other local wildlife.
- And more

Green Infrastructure Pro: Build Your Resume or College Application. Get Certified. July 27-31 \$525

Ready to design a greener future—and your next career step? Join us for a week of hands-on learning that will set you apart on college applications and job resumes. In The Watershed Institute's summer Academy, you'll work with River-Friendly Coordinator Olivia Spildooren and local industry mentors to explore how sustainable landscaping can combat climate change.

- Learn the fundamentals of green infrastructure, gain real-world design and analysis skills, and discover how native plants can restore ecosystems and protect waterways. You'll get dirty (in the best way possible) while practicing soil testing, native plant identification, and rain garden design.
- Build a professional network and portfolio
- Earn the Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional Associate Certification, a credential recognized across the region.

If you're passionate about the environment, interested in landscape design or ecology, or just want to stand out to colleges with hands-on sustainability experience—this is your summer to grow.

Register for one week or all weeks! Classes typically run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.