



Wilderness  
Inquiry

**DATE:** October 6, 2017

**CONTACT:** Alison Zemanski Heis, Associate Director of Communications  
National Parks Conservation Association  
202-384-8762 or [aheis@npca.org](mailto:aheis@npca.org)

Wendy Austin  
FOLAR  
804.543.0325 or [Contactus@folar-va.org](mailto:Contactus@folar-va.org), or [Austinwam@gmail.com](mailto:Austinwam@gmail.com)

Joe Spring  
Wilderness Inquiry  
612.676.9422 or [joe@wildernessinquiry.org](mailto:joe@wildernessinquiry.org)

## **Canoemobile Comes to Virginia: Groups Host Hundreds of Hopewell Students for Outdoor Learning and Fun at Nearby National Park**

**WHAT:** On October 10th and 11th, National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) and Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR) will partner with Wilderness Inquiry's Canoemobile program which provides a "floating classroom" for students to learn about science, history, geography, and culture. Wilderness Inquiry, a non-profit whose mission is to connect people to the natural world through shared outdoor experiences, will provide canoes and staff support to get roughly 200 students from the Hopewell School District in Virginia out onto the Appomattox River at Petersburg National Battlefield. In addition to getting students out on the water, FOLAR and NPCA along with our partners from the National Park Service, Virginia American Water, Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries, and the City of Hopewell Recreation & Parks will lead participants through hands-on learning stations aimed to connect students to the natural, cultural, and recreational resources in their hometown. Activities will include public land stewardship and advocacy, water quality testing, a wildlife presentation and the history and national significance of the Siege of Petersburg.

**WHEN:** **Tuesday, October 10 and Wednesday, October 11, 2017**  
**9:00AM – 2:00PM**

**WHERE:** 205 Appomattox Street, Hopewell, VA 23860

**WHO:** National Parks Conservation Association, Friends of the Lower Appomattox River, Wilderness Inquiry, National Park Service, Virginia American Water, Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries, the City of Hopewell Recreation & Parks and students from Hopewell School District

***\*Media interested in participating, please RSVP to Alison Zemanski Heis at 202.384.8762 or [aheis@npca.org](mailto:aheis@npca.org)\****

**WHY:**

National Parks Conservation Association works to encourage people to become advocates to connect, protect and restore our national parks. Participating in these hands-on park activities, with the help of our many partner groups, will help inspire and engage the next generation of park supporters.

###

**About National Parks Conservation Association** Since 1919, the nonpartisan National Parks Conservation Association has been the leading voice in safeguarding our national parks. NPCA and its more than 1.3 million members and supporters work together to protect and preserve our nation's natural, historic, and cultural heritage for future generations. For more information, visit [www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org).

**About Friends of the Lower Appomattox River** FOLAR is the only organization in the Tri-Cities and surrounding counties dedicated to conserving and protecting the natural, cultural and recreational resources along the Lower Appomattox River. FOLAR has served the region as a registered 501c3 nonprofit organization since 2001 working to develop river stewardship, improve parks, establish trails, increase river access, and protect special places. Additional information can be found on the FOLAR website, [www.folar-va.org](http://www.folar-va.org).

**About Wilderness Inquiry** Since 1978, Wilderness Inquiry has provided outdoor recreation and education for people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities throughout North America and around the globe. The Canoemobile is a program of Wilderness Inquiry that works with federal, state, and local governments, school districts, and nonprofit organizations to connect underserved populations to public lands and waterways through introductory outdoor experiences. For more information visit, [www.wildernessinquiry.org/canoemobile](http://www.wildernessinquiry.org/canoemobile).