



CARING FOR OUR  
**Watersheds**<sup>®</sup>  
Chesapeake Bay

# HOW IT WORKS



Answer the question:

**What can you do to improve your watershed?**

## Identify the Problem

- **Research** your watershed and identify a local environmental concern
- Work as a classroom or club of at least 10 students
- Work with community partners and various stakeholders



## What's your Solution?

- Come up with **one realistic solution** using democratic decision making
- Pitch your innovative idea to community leaders to gather feedback and ask for change
- **Solutions are judged** on innovation and adaptability, impact potential, research and writing, budget, visuals, realistic solution, environmental literacy, and connection to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



## Submit Online

**Submission Deadline:**

**March 6, 2026**

- Proposals are reviewed
- Implementation funding is awarded



## Finalists Competition

- Community mentor provided
- 5 minute presentation
- Judges select 10 finalists
- Chance to **win up \$1,000** for your **classroom/club**



**\$10,000**

**Implementation Funding**

**All realistic entries are eligible.  
If you want to take action,  
we can help make it happen!**

Free watershed presentations, mentorship and funding is available.  
Proposal guidelines can be found at [CaringForOurWatersheds.com](https://CaringForOurWatersheds.com)



## FINALIST AWARDS

| 1 <sup>st</sup> Place | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place | 4 <sup>th</sup> Place | 5 <sup>th</sup> Place  |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| \$1,000               | \$900                 | \$800                 | \$700                 | \$600                  |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Place | 7 <sup>th</sup> Place | 8 <sup>th</sup> Place | 9 <sup>th</sup> Place | 10 <sup>th</sup> Place |
| \$500                 | \$450                 | \$400                 | \$350                 | \$300                  |

## SCHOOL/CLUB AWARDS

**\$10,000 available**

The first 40 classrooms/clubs that submit qualifying proposals will receive \$250 for their school or registered non-profit club just for participating!

## PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

**\$10,000 available**

To share between realistic entries. All proposals are eligible to apply for funding.\*

## ELIGIBILITY

**CARING FOR OUR WATERSHEDS: Chesapeake Bay** is open to classrooms/clubs in **Middle School - High School\*\*** who live within the Mid-Atlantic Region: PA, VA, MD, DC, DE, and parts of WV and NY.

## DEADLINES

**March 6, 2026** – Budgets and written proposals due

## CONTACT

**Sarah Jennings**, Program Manager

Phone: (508) 717-9919 | E-mail: [sjennings@earthforce.org](mailto:sjennings@earthforce.org)

\*Contest finalists will be given priority for implementation funding.

\*\*Select 5th grade classes can apply with special permission.

The Program Coordinator reserves the right to change or adjust reward amounts and contest deadlines based on the level of participation.

This program is brought to you by:

