

## Shenandoah National Park Trust CVC Code #08370

“...The other kids and I were all from cities—we had never been to a national park and had never slept outside. I think I can speak for the other kids by saying we were nervous. But...by the second day, we started to get used to the sounds of nature, like birds and insects. By the third day, hiking got fun. By the fifth day, we didn't want to leave Shenandoah.

My neighborhood in Richmond is noisy and unsafe. If it weren't for the opportunity to go to camp in Shenandoah National Park, I would have spent my whole summer at home, being bored and probably not going outside much.



That week in the park changed me. I not only learned to love the outdoors, but got to work with other kids as a team and do work that helped the park. I learned a lot about patience and acceptance because I did all of this with kids I didn't know before this trip. I know these things are helping me in my regular life too. Every kid should have the opportunity to spend a week in their national park, because it is *their* park—and because they will be inspired to lead joyful, productive lives.”

Sincerely,

11<sup>th</sup> grader, Richmond Community High School

*Shenandoah National Park Trust is the official philanthropic foundation supporting Shenandoah National Park. Programs like Youth Service Learning Camps are the heartbeat of the Shenandoah National Park Trust. Can you help us send more kids to hike, camp and play in their park?*

*With your financial support through the CVC campaign, we'll also support internships in Shenandoah, make improvements to the historic Pinnacles Research Facility (built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. back in 1935), bring solar power to the Big Meadows Campground – and more.*