

Youth Engagement in the King Tide Event: Maps, Wrack Line, White Boots, Drums and the Tide

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1. What Happened on the Field Trip?

In Fall 2024, the ESVA Climate Equity Team collaborated with local teachers, community members, to organize a climate change and flooding-focused field trip for ~80 Nandua Middle School students. As part of the King Tide Experience, an innovative and interdisciplinary educational program, students engaged in hands-on, place-based activities to explore watersheds, rising sea levels, and sustainability. They collected and analyzed data related to high tide projections and connected their findings through science, mathematics, and the arts. The King Tide Field Experience was structured as an immersive journey, beginning with an engaging icebreaker to establish group dynamics and set expectations.



2. Mapping The Past

Students explored the Eastern Shore's history through maps and local sounds. They examined historical maps while listening to sounds from the ESVA and reflecting on what they learned.



3. Flood Mapping

Students observed how nearby tides change over time. They marked the current high water line, used tide charts to track daily and monthly changes, and mapped future predictions. Seeing water levels predicted by their graduation got students asking questions like "Where will the cars park?" and "Will we need to move the boat ramp?"



4. Flood Walk Activity

Students explored how tide levels vary across Eastern Shore communities. In groups, students mapped floodwater reach using transect tapes and compared impacts across locations.



5. White Boots and The Tide

Students reflected on changing tide levels. Using an ESVA white waterman's boot as a reference, they marked the current high-water line, measured how much higher the King Tide was compared to the 2024 average, and added a future projection. Students then wrote and drew their reflections on what these changes meant to them.



6. Bucket Drumming

Students sonically represented what they learned about tides. Facilitators led bucket drumming circles, allowing students to create their own beats and translate tide graphs into music.



King Tide Field Trip Responses

Students learned about the highest tides of the year and how we predict future flooding. They talked about the impacts of rising waters on neighborhoods and shared ideas about how we can plan for the future

