

The Cumberland Valley chapter of Trout Unlimited is hosting the 31st Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp in June 2026. Several other states now offer similar camps, but this is the original camp that became the model for the others. While most applicants are from PA, applications are welcome from other states.

The purpose of the camp is to educate students in the importance of coldwater conservation. The selection of students is a vigorous process. By selecting today's high school leaders, it is believed that they will be the leaders of their communities in years to come. It is important for them to recognize the importance of clean water and how it relates to everyday living. The curriculum has been structured to provide the foundation for that education.

Classes include principles of ecology, hydrogeology, wetlands, trout stream entomology, aquatic invertebrates, hydrology, watersheds, the biology of pollution, trout behavior, reptiles and amphibians, acid deposition, the politics of conservation, and the effects of humans on the Chesapeake Bay.

Instructors lead streamside programs to collect aquatic invertebrates, electro-fishing, and conducting field identification of riparian corridors. Sessions include casting, knot tying, fly tying, and advanced fishing. The Camp provides a balance of instructional material and hands-on learning.

The students will also have the opportunity to participate in a conservation project to repair habitat in a stream. This project is designed for the students to complete while they are at camp, so that they can observe firsthand the effects of their efforts.

During the fishing sessions, the students are advised and tutored by ghillies (mentors) comprised of Trout Unlimited members. The angling is conducted on the Yellow Breeches at the campus of Messiah University in Grantham, PA.

Students will stay in the college dorms and eat in the campus dining hall. Messiah University was named one of the 10 most beautiful colleges in the north.

Financial Aid

Many students are sponsored for their tuition. Several chapters of Trout Unlimited will sponsor students from their area to the camp, so your first priority should be to check with your local chapter. If that is not available, be sure to indicate on your application that financial aid is needed. We will make every effort to obtain other sources of funding.



2026 RIVERS CONSERVATION AND FLY FISHING YOUTH CAMP



**Messiah University
Grantham, PA**

31st Year



Sunday Through Friday

NEW DATES June 14-19, 2026

FACTS ABOUT THE CAMP

- The camp is co-ed for ages 14 to 17.
- It is held on the campus of Messiah University on the Yellow Breeches in Grantham, PA.
- Cost is \$550 which includes tuition, room and board. Financial aid is available.
- The students are provided with three meals per day. Meals are cafeteria style with several entrée selections available.
- Classes are also held in the evenings after fishing.
- Campers receive all course materials, books, a camp tee shirt, and flies.
- There are 10 fishing sessions on the Yellow Breeches held prior to breakfast and after dinner each day.
- Classes are taught by more than 25 different instructors, all experts in their field.
- Fly fishing equipment is available for loan if needed.



A typical day's activities begin on the stream at daylight with fishing under the supervision of volunteer ghillies who provide personal instruction. Breakfast is served at 8AM. By 9AM students are in the classroom. Noon is lunch time. In addition to the classroom setting, several classes are held streamside with hands-on learning. Some of the time is scheduled for construction of a stream habitat project. Dinner is at 5PM. After dinner is the evening fishing session until dark. There is an evening program and snack followed by lights out at 11PM. This is not rest and relaxation. It is a learning experience for a lifetime.



To Apply
www.RiversCamp.com

Camp is limited to boys and girls ages 14 to 17. Students must have been born between June 26, 2008, and June 21, 2012.

The selection committee will choose up to 24 students based upon the application and expressed desire to attend camp. Do not send money with the application. Payment is due after the candidate is notified of selection. Total cost for tuition, room and board is \$550.

To apply go online to our website at www.RiversCamp.com. Make sure that the email address that you give us on the application is checked frequently. You should get a reply verifying receipt of your application within a day or so. If not, check your SPAM folder.

For any questions check the FAQ page on our website or send an email to riverscamp@gmail.com.

*Do not submit applications before
November 1, 2025.*

The deadline for the Early Acceptance Period is December 31, 2025. Campers selected for the Early Acceptance Period will be notified early January 2026. Applicants during the Regular Acceptance Period (1/1/26 through 2/28/26) will be notified in early March 2026.

If any vacancies remain there will be an Extended Application Period until April 30, 2026, or until the roster is full, whichever comes first. Campers accepted during the Extended Period will be notified as soon as possible.