



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Virtual Floating Classroom offers unprecedented opportunity for environment-based learning

ATLANTA, GEORGIA — In response to the global pandemic, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper has adapted their popular Floating Classrooms into an engaging online learning experience now available to students and teachers everywhere.

During the last two decades, more than 80,000 students, teachers, and adults have climbed aboard the Lake Lanier and West Point Lake Floating Classrooms. These on-the-water programs involve hands-on science experiments, wildlife viewing, and more, all to help students get a personal understating of their local water resources.

While the Floating Classrooms were docked due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper used that time to create the Virtual Floating Classroom to deliver the same curriculum to a broader audience online.

Using the online learning platform, Kahoot!, the Virtual Floating Classroom features videos of all the water and land-based activities that take place on the Floating Classrooms followed by interactive questions in a game-like format.

Now, four activities are available for middle school grade levels. Development of curriculum to serve elementary and high school grade levels is underway.

“The Virtual Floating Classroom provides educators with a unique opportunity to engage their students in real-life phenomena in a manner that surpasses other virtual experiences,” said Donald White, science content specialist with the Coweta County School System. “(It) allows students and teachers to see the science in action from the comfort of your home, office, or classroom. You can almost smell the lake water... the experience is that real.”

To provide additional support to educators, CRK staff can remotely guide groups through these activities. Some scholarships are available for Title 1 schools and disadvantaged groups. Teachers also have the option to guide students through the activities themselves or send links to students for individual assignments.

Today, CRK is scheduling a few small in-person outings. In time, even when the Floating Classrooms return to full capacity, their virtual counterpart will live on providing in-depth supplemental learning and informative opportunities for students far and wide.

[The Virtual Floating Classroom](#) was made possible by donors including the Stockel Family Foundation, Georgia Pacific, AEC Trust, George Brown Trust, Alice H. Richards Charitable Fund, Charter Foundation, and the WestPoint Fund.

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Chattahoochee Riverkeeper's mission is to protect and preserve the Chattahoochee River, its lakes and tributaries for the people, fish, and wildlife that depend upon it.

Media contact: Julia Regeski, Communications Manager
404-352-9828, jregeski@chattahoochee.org