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DUKE ENERGY SUPPORTS HANDS-ON, FEET WET PROGRAMS ON THE ENO RIVER

With a \$15,000 donation, Duke Energy has continued its investment in the environment through support of the Eno River Association's hands-on, feet-wet summer camp programs.

The Eno River Association provides hundreds of conservation, science, and history programs through field trips, outreach to schools & community groups, education at community events, program support to Parks within the watershed, Sunday afternoon guided hikes, and other programs open to the public at little or no charge. Funding will support the Association's signature summer programs, iWalk the Eno Science & Nature Camp and Eno River Field Station, which provide weeklong, in-depth science and nature exploration to excite participants in the natural world and create future environmental stewards who will work to protect it for generations to come. This work is especially important among low-income and minority populations who are traditionally most impacted by the effects of poor environmental practices and who are facing additional challenges to learning since the pandemic.

"Our youth have suffered tremendously from the ongoing pandemic. The interruption of traditional education opportunities is just one such impact. Outdoor education is a safe way to get our kids back into an engaging learning environment, and we are deeply appreciative of Duke Energy's investment in bringing kids into the woods, into the river, and into community with one another." says Jessica Sheffield, Executive Director of the Eno River Association. "Our camps create future conservationists, and we are proud to partner with Duke Energy to offer such important STEM education."

Funding from Duke Energy will help the Association set camp fees intentionally low, provide need-based scholarships, and support resources for families where English is a second language. Thanks to past funding from Duke Energy and partners, Association summer camp programs have traditionally supported 30-50% enrollment by minority and low-income students.

"After a difficult year for North Carolina's students and families, we're investing in programs that address the disproportionate learning loss among vulnerable communities and help put students on a path to academic success," said Stephen De May, North Carolina president, Duke Energy.

iWalk the Eno runs June 14-18 and 21-25 for youth 8-12 and Eno River Field Station runs July 19-23 for teens 12-15 with a strong interest in science or natural resource conservation. Registration for both camps are now on a waiting list.. More information is available on the Association website www.enoriver.org/education.

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About the Eno River Association:

The Eno River Association is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization founded in 1966 with a mission to protect the natural, historical, and cultural resources of the Eno River basin in northern Durham and Orange counties. The Association has protected 7,500 acres of natural and working lands and has helped create five local, state, and regional nature parks, including Eno River State Park, Occoneechee Mountain State Natural Area, West Point on the Eno City Park, Penny's Bend Nature Preserve, and Little River Regional Park. The Association continues to acquire land and secure easements, as well as provide stewardship, education programs, and events like the annual Festival for the Eno to inspire others to prioritize our local, natural resources. More information is available at www.enoriver.org

About Duke Energy Foundation

The Duke Energy Foundation provides philanthropic support to meet the needs of communities where Duke Energy customers live and work. The Foundation contributes more than \$30 million annually in charitable gifts and is funded by Duke Energy shareholder dollars. More information about the Foundation can be found at duke-energy.com/foundation. A link to Duke Energy's press release is here: <https://news.duke-energy.com/releases/duke-energy-awards-1-million-in-grants-to-address-pandemic-learning-loss-in-north-carolina>

