

# BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## RETRACING CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH'S TRAIL ON THE CHESAPEAKE

Multiple partners come together to form a once in a lifetime experience for Baltimore City Students. Partners from Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks, Baltimore City Public Schools, Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, and the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House. Traveling along the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, 8th graders studied the environment and history of our regional waterways.

The students had been studying Captain John Smith's work to map the waterways of the Chesapeake. With paddles in hand, they became captains themselves as they steered kayaks along the same route Smith took on the Patapsco River 400 years ago. As they paddled, students encountered surprising amounts of trash and pondered the human impact since Captain John Smith. The students also learned how to communicate with flag signals, analyzed skulls from the Chesapeake area, and mapped water routes of the British during the War of 1812.

The field trip was part of the National Park Service's Kids in Kayaks program, which retraces Smith's route in mapping the coastline and waterways. During the 2015-16 school year, about 600 Baltimore City Public Schools students will have the opportunity to participate in the program.

Watch the video at <https://vimeo.com/141215156>.