

MEDIA RELEASE
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**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORES
THE GREAT DISMAL SWAMP WITH STUDENTS**

SUFFOLK, VA: An education program of National Geographic spurred 50 youth from the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church, Second District's Summer Youth Academic Camp, to the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge this week. Students from the District of Columbia, North Carolina, Maryland and Virginia received both classroom instruction and field study at the Great Dismal using a web-based mapping, analysis and collaboration tool called "National Geographic FieldScope."

Designed to support geographic investigations and engage students as citizen scientists investigating real-world issues, FieldScope enhances student scientific investigations where student fieldwork and data is integrated with that of peers and professionals, adding analysis opportunities and meaning to student investigations. The curriculum challenges students to think about how human activities in our watershed impact the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

The A.M.E. tour and activities were facilitated by local biologists who interpret the narrated bus tours departing weekly from the Suffolk Visitor Center and were made possible in part by Starr Motors, Another Level Travel and B&B Taxi Service.

The Suffolk Visitor Center is located at 321 N. Main Street in the historic Prentis House. Open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and around the clock at www.Suffolk-Fun.com.

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