

# WNC Environmental Summit (SCHEDULE)

Saturday, March 23, Haywood Community College Auditorium \*\*\* Youth-only sessions

9:00-9:30 am	Check-in, Student and Community Partner Poster Sessions	
9:30-10:00 am	Welcome, <b>Climate Change and HOPE</b> , Dr. Lisa Lefler, WCU, Assoc. Prof. Anthropology; Director, Culturally Based Native Health Program	
10:00-10:15 am	Small Group Discussion/ ***Youth Summit Groups	-
10:15-10:45 am	Keynote: How <b>Connecting to Place is vital to conserve biodiverse ecosystems and how equity is critical for working across communities.</b> Tommy Cabe, Forest Resource Specialist, Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians.	
10:45-11:20 am	Small Group Discussion/ ***Youth Summit Groups	- 11:20-11:30 am Break
11:30-12:00 pm	<b>Wildlife Conservation (Live Animal Presentation)</b> , Rachael Hart, Balsam Mountain Trust	-
12:00-1:00 pm	Lunch ( <b>Blue Ridge Electric Vehicle Presentation</b> )	-
1:00-2:00 pm	Concurrent Session 1: (***) <b>Youth Action Lab</b> Concurrent Session 1: <b>Change and Sustainable Development in WNC Panel Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Panelist, Dr. Douglas Rao, NC Institute for Climate Science</li><li>➤ Dr. David Henderson, WCU Environmental Philosophy</li><li>➤ Eric Bradford, Asheville Greenworks</li></ul> Moderator; Chuck Dixon, Sustainability Board, Town of Waynesville
2:00-3:00 pm	Concurrent Session 2 (***) <b>Youth Action Lab</b> Concurrent Session 2: <b>Energy Efficiency Panel Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Panelist, Dave Erb, Retired UNCA Engineering Professor</li></ul> Panelist, Brad Rouse- Author, Climate Warrior
3:00- 4:00 pm	Concurrent Session 3: <b>Youth Action Lab Wrap-up (Pickup kickball game/Ice cream/Crafts)</b> Concurrent Session 3: <b>Forestry, Wildlife, and Conservation: The Fundamental Disconnect. Panel Discussion</b> , Moderator, Alexander Byers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Tommy Cabe, Tribal Forester</li><li>➤ Rachael Dickson, Forester, US Forest Service</li><li>➤ Panelist, Dr. George Hahn, Forester</li><li>➤ Andrew Isenhower, Wildlife Biologist</li></ul>
4:00 pm	Conference Wrap-up: Hear from Youth in a short video from the event! Optional Field Trip: Lake Junaluska Pool (meeting place), <b>Water and Wildlife.</b> Sign up at the registration desk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Join Wildlife Biologist for a field trip looking for migrating waterfowl, spring ephemeral wildflowers, and a discussion on wildlife ecosystems in the Southern Appalachia.</li></ul>

# WNC Environmental Summit, Youth Action Labs

Saturday, March 23, Haywood Community College, \*\*\* Youth-only sessions will be held outside weather permitting.

Students will pre-register for two sessions at 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm. They will enjoy hands-on labs taught by Student Action Leaders and supported by community partners. At the end of each session, students will have developed an action plan to step up as environmental leaders to take action to make a difference in their communities. From 3:00-4:00 pm, there is pickup kickball and ice cream!

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| 1. Invasives, Natives, Sustainable Gardening.   | ➤ Students will learn how to recognize and remove common invasive plants, how to propagate native plants, and how to plant a three-sister garden. Local Partner Support: The HCC Greenleaf Initiative.   |
| 2. Fish and Wildlife Conservation, Wildlife Corridors.  | ➤ Learn about local fish and wildlife species and how to conserve them. Local Partner Support: HCC Fish and Wildlife Club.   |
| 3. NC Forestry, Wildfires, and Conservation.  | ➤ Students will identify trees and discover their unique interactions with soils, microbes, food webs, and fire. Local Partner Support: HCC Forestry Club.   |
| 4. Create Art as an expression of Hope and Equity in Science through clay, paint, and nature photography.                 | ➤ Students will learn how Art provides hope and messages of inspiration, celebration, and cue of care, and can have significant community impacts.   |
| 5. Science Communication through Improv, Storytelling, and Film.  | ➤ Students will learn storytelling, improv, and film techniques to talk about complex subjects and provide others with a message of hope and inspiration.  |
| 6. Measuring the smoke, air, and energy (for better health and better living).  | ➤ Students will use scientific instruments to collect weather, air, and energy. Local Partner Support: NC DEQ.   |
| 7. Plant a Native Pollinator Garden.  | ➤ Students will design, layout, and plant a pollinator garden. They will learn what keystone native plants provide the best ecosystem services and discuss how native plants' adaptations allow them to survive in local soils. Local Partner Support: US Fish and Wildlife Services.  |
| 8. Water Quality and Stream Restoration.  | ➤ Students will collect macroinvertebrates in the stream, complete water quality testing, and complete live staking to restore stream bank erosion. Local Partner Support: Haywood Waterways.  |
| 9. Celebrate Biodiversity-species scavenger hunts using photography and identifying species using iNaturalist/ecoEXPLORE. | ➤ Students will complete a scavenger hunt to find plants, trees, mushrooms, insects, birds, and mammals on campus and capture them in photography. They will identify them as species and use iNaturalist to celebrate the curiosity and biodiversity of our region. Local Partner Support: ecoExplore and Great Smoky Mountain National Park. |
| 10. Waste, Recycling, and Composting.   | ➤ Students will discuss the local challenges of recycling, composting, and waste disposal and the best way to communicate science. Vermiculture practices will also be studied. Local Partner Support: Haywood Solid Waste and Recycling.  |
| 11. NASA Science Lab.   | ➤ Students will learn about data collection through satellites and how the data informs communities on how to take action to stop climate change, erosion, pollution, and more. Local Partner Support: The STEM Collaborative.   |
| 12. Water Quality and Fish Dissection.  | ➤ Students will dissect a trout to learn about adaptations and conservation of trout waters and their ecosystems. Local Partner Support: NC Wildlife Resources Commission.   |
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