



Greetings!

Once a year for the past 22 years, every 8th grade public school student descended on the Canton Recreation Park for a hands-on learning experience unlike any other. **It's called Kids in the Creek and it is consistently one of the more memorable experiences students have from middle school.**

- *"It was a wonderful experience! It's better than learning from the book or classroom. I love hands-on!"*
- *"I loved it! It was so fun! It was a cool experience!"*

But do the students learn anything and does it help the teachers teach? We believe so...

- *"Kids in the Creek does more to increase students understanding of water and water quality than anything I could do in the classroom. It has been a valuable learning tool for many years and something the students and I look forward to every year."*
- *"Kids in the Creekhas a definitive impact on End of Grade Testing."*
- *"Kids in the Creek provides a one of a kind opportunity to let the kids connect with real science in a way few of them would ever get without it. Kids in the Creek is an absolutely vital program for us."*

Kids in the Creek exposes students to water quality through four stations – water chemistry, the EnviroScape stormwater model, benthic macroinvertebrates, and fish. The program's incredible power is demonstrated every year when these "cool" 8th graders revert back a few years and rediscover how amazing a stonefly is or a tangerine darter. **It's called the "wow factor" and it's big at Kids in the Creek.**

It takes a lot to host Kids in the Creek, from organizing volunteers, to the pre-event classroom pep talks, the field event itself, the post-event classroom exercises, and finally the t-shirt design contest. **On Saturday, February 27, 2021, Haywood Waterways and the Town of Canton will host the "9th Annual Plunge Benefit-t-t-ting Kids in the Creek & Environmental Education Programs".** The Plunge is a community event, bringing together public officials, schools, businesses, churches, and many others to support kids. It features a "plunge" (or a run) into the waters of the Champion Credit Union Aquatics Center. **How deep folks go (ankles, chest, or full immersion jump off the diving board) is a personal choice**, but depends a little on courage and a lot on spectator persuasion. Costumes welcome and prizes awarded for best costumes and top individual and team fundraisers.



Planning for the 9th Annual Plunge is well underway and we need your help. **Please consider becoming an Event Supporter.** This a fun event that benefits kids and our waterways; community support is needed!

"I hope you keep this program going to inspire and educate the children about the Pigeon River."

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Romaniszyn".

Eric Romaniszyn, Executive Director, Haywood Waterways Association, Inc.





9th Annual Plunge

Information & Sponsorships

Date: Saturday, February 27, 2021

Time: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm; RSVP for a time slot every 15 minutes

Place: Champion Credit Union Aquatics Center, Canton Recreation Park

Why?: To raise money for Kids in the Creek and environmental education programs, all work to protect the waterways of Haywood County.

How Can You Help?

Show your community spirit and sponsor Haywood Waterways' Plunge. It's a great way to promote your business and support youth education.

➔ \$250 – Stonefly

Name on Sponsor Board and social media advertisements; recognition in all Plunge materials, press releases, and announcements; recognition at our annual meeting and newsletters; one year Donor-level membership to HWA.

➔ \$500 – Trout

Logo on Sponsor Board, logo on social media advertisements; recognition in all Plunge materials, press releases, and announcements; recognition at our annual meeting and newsletters; one year Patron-level membership to HWA.

➔ \$1,000 - Presenting Polar Bear

Prime sponsor; banner at event (provided by sponsor); logo on social media advertisements; top billing on all Plunge materials, press releases, and announcements; recognition at our annual meeting and newsletters; one year Benefactor-level membership to HWA.

We also invite you to brave the winter weather and take the plunge on behalf of your business. Better yet, organize your employees into a team that raises money collectively! The Plunge will adapt to Covid-19 precautions this year. We are taking reservations every 15 minutes for individuals, families, and other appropriate groups to plunge. There will be great prizes for the top fundraisers and best costumes! All plungers get a free t-shirt!

Haywood Waterways is using [GoFundMe Charity](https://charity.gofundme.com/9thhwaplunge) to coordinate Plungers and accept donations (charity.gofundme.com/9thhwaplunge). Click "Join" and create your own Plunge page that can be forwarded to leverage even greater support from family, friends, and coworkers. Donations can also be accepted offline using the attached **Registration, Sponsorship and Donation Form**.

If you don't want to plunge, you can still donate and cheer on your favorite plunger. Then join us for the 9th Annual Plunge. It's a great way to get out of the house in February while supporting the kids of Haywood County.



For more details, contact Eric Romaniszyn at 828-476-4667 or info@haywoodwaterways.org.





**9th Annual Plunge Benefit-t-t-ting
Kids in the Creek & Environmental Education
Saturday, February 27, 2021
Registration, Sponsorship and Donation Form**

Organization: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Phone: _____ Email: _____

Sponsor, Registration, Donation (*check all that apply*)

_____ Presenting Polar Bear Sponsorship (\$1,000)

_____ Trout Sponsorship (\$500)

_____ Stonefly Sponsorship (\$250)

_____ I believe in Kids in the Creek. Here's a one-time gift to help with the event.

_____ Forget sponsorship, I want to PLUNGE for bragging rights! (\$25 or get your friends and family to sponsor you at charity.gofundme.com/9thhwaplunge; \$10 for under age 18)

_____ I want to donate an in-kind gift or service to help. Contact me at (*phone/email*) _____ to discuss further.

Fulfillment Method

_____ Cash/Check Enclosed (Made payable to Haywood Waterways Association)

_____ Credit Card at charity.gofundme.com/9thhwaplunge

_____ Please bill me.

Mail or email this form to:

Haywood Waterways Association
PO Box 389
Waynesville, NC 28786
info@haywoodwaterways.org

Haywood Waterways Association is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law (Tax ID: 56-2108874). Financial information and a copy of our license is available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 919-807-2214; the license is not an endorsement by the State.



You can also call us with the information and pay later - 828-476-4667.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

All proceeds benefit Kids in the Creek and youth education programs, and help protect our waterways for all users.