

Charlevoix County middle schoolers learn how to protect local watershed

by Josh Kurman (Up North Live)

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Charlevoix County middle schoolers got to board a Beaver Island ferry to learn how to protect their local watershed on May 16, 2023. (Josh Kurman/UpNorthLive News)

CHARLEVOIX, Mich., (WPBN/WGTU) -- Hundreds of Charlevoix County students are taking their classwork to the water this week.

Two of three groups of sixth graders went out on the Beaver Island Ferry on Tuesday morning.

Students enjoyed a tour of the Lake Charlevoix Watershed while participating in experiments related to water quality, invasive species and water safety.

This was the event's first year back since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, but with a 30-year history, staff said it was never going to be gone for long.

"You know, I've been talking to students through this program and their parents will be chaperoning, and their parents will say hey I remember doing this when I was back in seventh grade or sixth grade," said Tip of the Mitt's education manager Eli Baker.

"So it's been going, and our plan is to keep it going for decades down the line," Baker said. "We want to just make sure everybody feels connected to the lake and just takes care of it."

The event is a partnership between the [Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council](#), the [Beaver Island Boat Company](#) and the [Lake Charlevoix Association](#).

Staff said more than 300 students will participate in the event this year.