

**THE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY TEAM :**  
**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT THROUGH LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD**  
**RESEARCH**

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The Schoharie River Center (SRC) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to educational and cultural programming about the Schoharie Creek and the communities near the Schoharie River Valley and the Mohawk River Valley. Formed in 1999, it is a community based organization that sponsors and operates two Environmental Study Team programs, one in Burtonsville, NY and another in Schenectady, NY. The Schoharie River Center, located in Burtonsville, NY is also active in a variety of community, historical and cultural programs and activities. The Environmental Study Team (EST) is an award winning Youth Development Program where middle and high school age youth work with ecologists and aquatic biologists to study, monitor and improve the water quality of local streams, rivers and lakes.

The Environmental Study Team has been studying, monitoring, and documenting the water quality of the Schoharie Creek and other streams and lakes since 2002. In 2007 the program was awarded a national Environmental Excellence Award from the Conservation Matters program sponsored by Sea World – Busch Gardens –Fuji Films. The SRC EST program was started in 2002 and meets in Burtonsville, NY. This program serves students from the Duanesburg, Schalmont, Schoharie and Amsterdam school districts, as well as several area private schools. Meetings are generally every other Sunday from noon to 4pm.

In 2008 a second program was started in Schenectady, NY and is co-sponsored by Watershed Assessment Associates. Its home is at the Watershed Assessment Associates building at 28 Yates Street in downtown Schenectady. This branch of EST serves students throughout the Schenectady area and meets twice a week. EST members learn how to conduct chemical tests to determine water quality, identify macro invertebrates found in the waters, prepare written scientific reports of their findings, learn photography and videography skills, prepare slide shows, as



well as make presentations to the public.

The EST program is open to any interested youth ages 13 - 18. Parents are also welcome to participate. For more information about the EST program contact John McKeeby at [schoharierivercenter@juno.com](mailto:schoharierivercenter@juno.com), or J. Kelly Nolan at [jkn@rwaa.us](mailto:jkn@rwaa.us).