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The countdown is on. Catch the King! Oct. 27, 2018

More than 250 individuals and 120 classrooms throughout Hampton Roads are signed up so far for ***Catch the King*** and its school-based sister program aimed at measuring the threat of flooding tides. The organizers of the communitywide citizen-science project, which debuted last year, remind residents interested in participating in the 2018 event that the deadline to register is Oct. 15. This year’s event is scheduled for ***Saturday Oct. 27***.

On Nov. 5, 2017, more than 700 volunteers from throughout Hampton Roads traced the year’s highest astronomical tide, the king tide. Their smartphone measurements improved a tidal flooding forecast model under development at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. These models will be more important in the years ahead, when safe margins against tidal flooding are sure to narrow. Last year’s Catch the King was the world’s largest-ever king tide crowdsourcing event.

WHRO Public Media, lead media sponsor for Catch the King 2018, is stepping up promotion of the event as part of a year-round environmental education program for high school students. With a grant from the ***Hampton Roads Community Foundation*** and additional funding from the ***Batten Environmental Education Initiative***, WHRO offers incentives to schools to join in its resilience education effort. Catch the King enables students to share in a project-based outdoor learning experience, utilizing smartphones in a way that’s educational and positive while bettering an understanding of the most central of challenges to Hampton Roads: sea level rise.

Though this year’s focus will be on involving students, Catch the King welcomes all individuals and organizations to participate. For 2018, Catch the King is grateful for the support of ***tHRive***, the young professionals of the Hampton Roads Chamber. This year’s Catch the King also welcomes the sponsorship of the ***Hampton Roads Sanitation District***.

Catch the King also is made possible by ***Wetlands Watch*** and by ***Concursive Corp.***, developer of the SeaLevelRise app. Our science liaison is Dr. Derek Loftis of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, whose work is funded in part by the ***Commonwealth Center for Recurrent Flooding Resiliency***. Our volunteer coordinator is Qaren Jacklich and our founder/project leader is Dave Mayfield. Other media partners are the ***Daily Press*** and ***The Virginian-Pilot***.

Teachers interested in leading a Catch the King team can find more info at <http://education.whro.org/kingtide/faq>. Residents who want more info or wish to register can do so at www.whro.org/kingtide. Or see our [Facebook group](#) and [Facebook page](#) under Help Catch the King Tide!

