

# Energy Excursion

The Clifford M. Lewis, S.J. Appalachian Institute  
Wheeling Jesuit University

## What will I be learning?

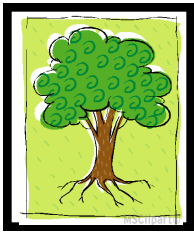
**E**nvironmental excursions lead students to explore the impacts on communities made in order to harvest Appalachia's coal, natural gas, and alternative energy to feed the needs of the region, nation, and world. In meeting with activists with opposing views, participants gain an appreciation for the complexity of such issues. While not a service-focused trip, the groups do perform a valuable service centered around the environment. The unique and objective education, coupled with daily reflections, result in a "call to action" for each individual and group to implement upon returning home.



Creighton U. students learn about natural gas drilling from Chesapeake Energy.

## Partners and Presenters:

- *Wetzel County Action Group*—an organization working to insure the safety, economic security, and quality of life for local residents faced with issues of natural gas drilling.
- *Chesapeake Energy*—a prominent natural gas drilling company working to tap into the increasing value of Marcellus Shale drilling.
- *Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition*—non profit dedicated to the improvement and preservation of WV's environment.
- *Keeper of the Mountains*—an activist organization educating the public on mountaintop removal issues through first-hand tours of an actual MTR site.
- *WV Coal Association*—trade association representing more than 90% of WV's underground and surface coal mining production.
- *Friends of Deckers Creek*—watershed group committed to cleaning and restoring Deckers Creek in Morgantown, WV through acid mine drainage treatment systems and community involvement campaigns.
- *Downstream Strategies*—environmental consulting firm working to link economic development with natural resource stewardship.
- *Mountaineer Wind Energy Center*—wind farm offering alternative renewable energy sources for Appalachia and the eastern US.
- *WV Highlands Conservancy*—representatives focusing on numerous environmental issues, in particular, the ineffectiveness of wind power as an energy option.
- *Student Environmental Action Coalition*—grassroots organization aiming to uproot environmental injustice by networking youth around the country.



***“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing’s going to get better. It’s not.” —The Lorax, Dr. Seuss***

## How much?

The trip costs \$300/person/week with a minimum of 10 people. If the group has less than 10, the cost will still be the same as if the group had the full number. This cost includes meals, lodging, programming, and resource materials. Deposits must be made approximately 6 months in advance.



Brophy College Prep HS explores Kayford Mountain, a nature preserve surrounded by mountain top removal coal mining.

## Where will I be staying?

Throughout the trip, groups will stay in various venues. All accommodations supply kitchen and shower facilities.

***Lantz Farm: Jacksonburg, WV***—this rustic farm provides a tranquil setting for immersion experiences. Housed on a wildlife management preserve, groups are able to view diverse wildlife through breathtaking hiking trails. The farmhouse sleeps 14 comfortably with a large living room and numerous dining rooms. For larger groups, the newly -furnished barn house sleeps 24.

***John XXIII Pastoral Center: Charleston, WV***—a beautiful conference and retreat center with pleasant dorm-style and individual living quarters.

***The Shack Neighborhood Center: Morgantown, WV***—an afterschool facility with a long history of providing for impoverished mining families. Convenient sleeping quarters with comfortable mats for group participants.

***Bishop Hodge’s Pastoral Center: Huttonsville, WV***—this retreat center provides beautiful chalets for groups of 14. The woods surrounding the chalets provide a unique opportunity for groups to explore WV’s flora and fauna.

## Where do I sign up?!

If you would like more information about the Appalachian Service Immersion trips, please contact:

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Wheeling Jesuit U. students discuss calls to action while meeting with representatives from the Student Environmental Action Coalition.