

CONCORD UPWARD BOUND

Greenbrier • McDowell • Mercer • Monroe • Summers

July 2026 Newsletter

Nationally recognized West Virginia storyteller Bil Lepp visited Upward Bound students on campus!

His "tall tales" gave students an engaging introduction to Appalachian storytelling traditions while sharpening their listening, critical thinking, and literacy skills — all key building blocks for college readiness.

The magic didn't stop there. After hearing Lepp's imaginative interpretation of the New River Gorge Bridge, students walked the bridge itself the next day, guided by Princeton High School science teacher Mrs. Betsy Ramsey for a hands-on geology lesson.

From storytelling to science — that's what interdisciplinary, place-based learning looks like.



Important Dates:

2026 Dates (Tentative)

Saturday Sessions:

08/29/2026

Summer Program:

06/21/2026–07/31/2026

Summer Bridge Program:

06/28/2026 – 07/31/2026

End of Summer Trip:

07/29/2026 -07/31/2026



Please share! Apply for Upward Bound—<https://apps.concord.edu/forms/view.php?id=644608>

We welcomed West Virginia Poet Laureate Marc Harshman during the Summer Program!

Harshman met with students to talk about the power of reading and writing, then shared a selection of his poetry during a special reading. As a longtime champion of literacy, he encouraged students to see words as a way to expand their world and their own potential.

Each student went home with a copy of one of Harshman's books, a gift meant to keep the inspiration going well beyond the visit.



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Glenville State University Trip



Building robots in STEM with Mr. Boyles.



Students dissected squid in Mrs. Ramsey's science class.



Pipestem Field Trip

