

Dragonflies & Damselflies



Captain John Smith
Chesapeake National
Historic Trail



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Anyone who has kayaked along the marshes of the Chesapeake Bay in summer has seen lots of dragonflies and damselflies. As adults, these insects have stick-like bodies, huge eyes, and long, clear wings. Most of their lives, though, they spend as tiny underwater larvae. For food, damselflies prey on other bugs. Some dragonflies are big enough to eat small fish and tadpoles! Pairs of mates are often seen flying together over the water. Take a closer look at their shiny, colorful bodies when they land on rocks, lily pads, and grasses.