



Fairchild Challenge 2009-2010 for middle schools Important general information for teachers

Schools present today can pick-up the following:

- Additional FC booklets
- Teacher sign up poster
- Butterfly-themed native plants – one per school (based on availability)
- Florida Invaders News

Goals (see p. 4 of program booklet for details)

- **NEW THIS YEAR –**
 - Middle School Awards Ceremony: **Monday, May 17, 6:30-8:30 p.m**
 - School awards:
 - 800+ points for Fairchild Challenge Award
 - Schools of Excellence
 - cash awards for 16 top-scoring schools
 - Student recognition
 - participants receive a four-person family pass to Fairchild and
 - a **limited number** of FC t-shirts or drawstring backpacks to distribute to the most actively involved students

Fairchild Challenge website

- **NEW THIS YEAR –**
 - Direct link to MS page: www.fairchildchallenge.org/middleschool
 - How-to-guides (for students and teachers) for many options will be found under *Resources*, on the website.
 - Check website frequently for required forms, important information and resources
 - Visit the Fairchild Challenge YouTube Channel to view student performances, and other events - www.youtube.com/fairchildchallenge
 - Are you on Facebook? Friend us on Facebook! We love fans!

Registration

- Mandatory registration form online
 - include at least three teachers and a media center representative
 - must provide teachers' e-mails and school's enrollment
 - Please inform your administrator that you are registering for the Challenge
- Teacher sign-up posters
 - for each registered school (if needed we can provide more)
 - place in a prominent faculty area to coordinate your school's participation

Bonus points

- **NEW THIS YEAR –**
 - Option 1: The Everglades: "River of Grass" (see p. 12)
 - Option 9: School Garden / Habitat Restoration (see p.18)
 - Student participation:
 - **25 bonus points** for schools involving 25-49% of the school's enrollment
 - **50 bonus points** for schools involving >50% of the school's enrollment
 - Teachers must provide school enrollment on registration form and number of students who attempted each option on entry forms.

Program policies

- **NEW THIS YEAR –**
 - **Environmental Role Models** (one each per school) for students and teachers
 - **Fairchild Challenge Middle School Teacher of the Year** (\$1,000 award)
 - Art (Options 5A & 5B) and Fairchild Challenge news videos in two languages (Option 10)
 - These option entries become the property of Fairchild, and will **not** be returned.
 - When submitting an entry please notify us in writing if you do not agree to these terms.
- **Plagiarism**
 - Will result in disqualification of all work submitted by the student(s) involved for the entire program year and their accumulated points will be nullified

Environmental Action (page 17, 22)

- **NEW THIS YEAR –**
 - Two target areas (home, school or community) must include quantifiable initiatives
 - Two Environmental action teacher professional development workshops will explore concrete ways to enhance environmental awareness (see page 22)
 - Sample project ideas/opportunities
 - Citizen science and “Project Budburst” initiative
 - Miami-Dade County DERM Environmentally Endangered Land (EEL)
 - Pine rockland Developing Corridors project
 - SIR International school recycling
 - Many more possibilities, check out our website:
www.fairchildchallenge.org/environmentalaction

Resources for registered schools (teachers and students)

- Butterfly-themed native plants – one per school (based on availability)
- Two Environmental action teacher professional development workshops will explore concrete ways to enhance environmental issues – page 22
- NEEF-sponsored **Be Water Wise Miami Education mini-grants**
 - Application online – **deadline to submit: Wed., Oct. 7** (sorry, but no extensions to deadline)
 - For schools completing and entering School Gardens (option 8) and/or Environmental Action (option 9)
 - Award amount based on content provided, school need, availability of funds, and number of applicants
 - Water Conservation (school gardens/habitat restoration) \$250-\$500
 - Water Quality Initiatives (environmental action) \$500-\$1,000
 - **Mandatory workshop for grant recipients** on Sun., Nov. 15, 2009.
- Reimbursement of transportation and other Fairchild Challenge-related costs (based on school need, see request form online)

Opportunities for students, teachers and schools

- Art workshop (option 5) – Dec. 5
- Intergenerational interviews (option 7) – Nov. 12-13
- Environmental action workshop (option 8) – Sept. 26 & Oct. 17
- School garden workshop (option 9) – Oct. 3 & Dec. 12
- Additional workshops are available on Fairchild’s website. Check the Teacher’s Professional Development tab for details.

Proud Fairchild Challenge Educators!

- Have you received your pin?
- Add **“Proud Fairchild Challenge Educator”** to your e-mail signature



Important information about FC 2009-2010 MS options

Please note: *Electronic version – a document emailed to us using Microsoft Office application not saved in a 2007 format. If you have Office 2007, please save your document using the previous version (i.e. not *.docx).

Option 1 – The Everglades: “River of Grass” (pg.12)

- song or spoken-word pieces
- two-minute performance
- integrate audience participation (choral refrain/repeated verse)
- optional acoustic musical instruments
- maximum of 10 performers
- performance text must be submitted along with entry form due Wed., Oct. 14 (electronic version **and** hard copy)
- performers must be present to perform Thurs., Oct. 29
- top performers will be invited to perform at the *Everglades Coalition Conference* in Palm Beach Gardens in January. ***Make it a School Event**

Option 2A – Fairchild Challenge design (pg. 12)

- two-color image
- students choose one aspect of the FC’s mission statement (pg. 1 of booklet) along with a one-paragraph narrative
- include the phrase “Fairchild Challenge 2009-2010” in the design
- this year’s selected image will be printed on t-shirts and/or drawstring backpacks (distributed to active participants)

Option 2B – Baynanza t-shirt design (pg. 13)

- design an image that represents Baynanza Biscayne Bay Cleanup Day
- DERM will panel and select the winning design which will be the official Baynanza 2010 t-shirt design

Option 3 – Botanical Fashion show (pg. 14)

- two Miami-chic casual/elegant (family-friendly) outfits
- one female/one male
- real plant materials
- supporting materials must be submitted with entry form
- students must model the outfits on Saturday, Nov. 21 and be present for the pre-judging beginning at 1:00 p.m.; ***Make it a School Event**

Option 4 – Creative Writing: A Bug’s Life! (pg. 14)

- observe an arthropod in nature and research the stages of its life cycle
- submit three diary entries written in the first-person perspective that describe your interaction with plants and animals
- entries must written at different life stages (i.e. egg, larvae, adult)
- a properly labeled, hand-drawn illustration must accompany each entry

Option 5 – Art: Local Edible Plants – drawings and sculptures (pg. 15)

- All artwork entries submitted must have artwork description tag (available online) completed and attached to entries
- art workshop opportunity for students: Sat., Dec. 5 (pg. 20)
- students are **not** required to participate in this workshop to submit art entries
- teacher submits roster of 8 students and 2 chaperones during enrollment period, Nov. 9 – Nov. 16

Option 6 – Research poster on Invasive Species (pg. 16)

- create a two-dimensional interpretive sign on 22" x 28" (standard size) posterboard, with writing and images, highlighting one plant and one animal species that are invasive to South Florida
- reference at least three sources
- all written components must be in students' own words and contain facts based on academic research
- selected entries may be used as interpretive material at FTBG
- **stand-alone/tri-fold posters will not be permitted**

Option 7 – Green Treasures: intergenerational interviews (pg. 16-17)

- students participate in ethnobotanical interview sessions
- students must write a one-page article about the plant and a one-page creative story on the person they interviewed
- teachers can arrange for students to interview elders in Haitian Creole or Spanish at the garden (limited availability)
 - participants in this workshop are obligated to complete option 7 (see pg. 20)

Option 8 – Environmental action (pg. 17)

- this year we are offering two Environmental action teacher professional development workshops to explore concrete ways to enhance environmental awareness – see pg. 22
- **efforts must cover each of the three areas: home, school and community**

BIG CHANGES THIS YEAR!!!

- **students must present** their projects at the Fairchild Challenge Environmental Action Reports event on **Thurs., April 29** at Fairchild
- while we encourage an unlimited number of students to participate in the various initiatives, no more than 3 students must present before a panel of community leaders for a total of 5 minutes (including a **3 ½ minute (maximum) PowerPoint presentation**).
- the presentation must summarize your school's environmental awareness and conservation initiatives in the home, school and community; at least two target areas must be quantifiable
- NEEF-sponsored **Be Water Wise Miami Education mini-grants** available to help fund this option (**see Important General Information for teachers**)

Option 9 – School garden / habitat restoration (pg. 18)

- maximum of 12-page summary reports must follow specific designated format (**different from last year**)
- reports must provide evidence of interpretive materials
- opportunity to earn up to 25 bonus points for teacher add-on report
- NEEF-sponsored **Be Water Wise Miami Education mini-grants** available to help fund this option (**see Important General Information for teachers**)

Option 10 – FC 2009 news video in two languages (pg. 18)

- 3-4 minute summary news video
- a 30-second segment in Spanish or French
- 15-30 second public service announcement on an environmental issue of your choice (PSA must be in English)
- video must be playable on either QuickTime or Windows Media Player
- encourage foreign language students, rather than native speakers, to develop foreign language component