

## FAIRCHILD CHALLENGE PROGRAM POLICIES 2009-2010 for Middle Schools

- **Registration:** Schools are required to submit one registration form providing contact information for teachers who are interested in participating (minimally, three teachers from different disciplines plus one media center representative). The registration form is available online at [www.fairchildchallenge.org/middleschool](http://www.fairchildchallenge.org/middleschool).
- **Option entry forms:** Each registered school must submit one completed entry form for each of the Challenge options they compete in during the year, not each individual student entry. Each Fairchild Challenge entry must be clearly marked with the school's and students' names. **Entries must follow the specified requirements or they will be penalized or disqualified.** Option entry forms must be downloaded online at [www.fairchildchallenge.org/middleschool](http://www.fairchildchallenge.org/middleschool).
- **Student work:** All work submitted as Fairchild Challenge entries must be completed by students only. Participants are expected to follow a strict honor code: All work must be original or quoted from a referenced source. **Plagiarism will result in disqualification of all work submitted by the student(s) involved for the entire program year and all accumulated points will be notified.**
- **Deadlines:** Fairchild Challenge entries must be received at Fairchild **by the published deadlines.** Entries may be dropped off at both Garden entrances during regular hours (seven days a week from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., unless otherwise specified). Entries are accepted in person or by mail (or e-mail, when specified).
- **Earning points:** Schools should encourage as many students as possible to attempt each of the ten diverse Challenge options. Each option has a maximum number of student entries that may be submitted to Fairchild for judging. Schools should submit the maximum number of entries in order to earn the most points possible. Schools may submit fewer than the maximum number of entries allowed per Challenge option; however, total points will be lower.
- **Bonus points:** Schools that involve 25 to 49 percent of their student body will receive 25 bonus points for the year; schools involving 50 percent or more, 50 bonus points. Bonus points will be calculated on the basis of reported student participants and school enrollment. In addition, options 1 and 9 provide an opportunity for participating schools to earn bonus points (see page 12 and 18 for details).
- **Judges:** Panelists evaluate entries using rubrics that reflect the evaluation criteria (posted online) listed in the specific requirements for each option. All results are final; completed judges' rubrics are not shared.
- **Scores:** Schools receive their scores by email following participation in various options. We do not release other schools' scores or school rankings during the year. Scores for the last three Challenge options (options 8, 9 and 10), and overall results are not announced until the awards ceremony on Monday, May 17.
- **School Awards:** All schools that participate in the Fairchild Challenge are recognized at the awards ceremony on Monday, May 17. Schools that accrue more than 800 points this year receive the Fairchild Challenge Award. The sixteen top-scoring schools are awarded \$1,000 (one), \$500 (five) or \$250 (ten) to support their environmental programs.

Schools that earn the Fairchild Challenge Award for five consecutive years become a Fairchild Challenge School of Excellence.

- **Student and teacher awards:** Each school may select one student **and** one teacher Environmental Role Model (ERM) to be recognized and receive a medal at the awards ceremony (required application available online in April). Additionally, students earning first place for each Challenge option will be recognized and receive a medal at the awards ceremony. For first-place group entries, a maximum of 5 medals will be awarded per group and a trophy will be awarded to groups larger than 5 students.
- **Student materials:** Fairchild is not responsible for any materials lost, stolen or damaged. Student entries (with the exception of entries submitted for options 5A, 5B, and 10) may be picked up immediately after the awards ceremony and **until Tuesday, May 25**, after which they will become the property of Fairchild to be used as samples of student work or discarded. Fairchild will not return unclaimed entries. **All art (option 5A and 5B) and news videos (option 10) entries become the property of Fairchild and will not be returned.** Selected entries may be used for Fairchild challenge fundraising purposes. **When submitting an entry you must notify us in writing if you do not agree to these terms.**
- **Schools consent** to Fairchild's **unrestricted use of student work** and participants' likenesses, including photographs and audio/visual recordings made of participants and/or their entries, at Fairchild or elsewhere. Student entries may be exhibited and/or published by Fairchild. **Fairchild must be notified in writing of any exceptions.**