



# FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



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## FCPS Science Teachers Honored for Stewardship

Teachers on the science education team at Fairfax County Public Schools are being honored for their efforts in environmental education. At its meeting on July 22, 2015 the Fairfax County Park Authority Board announced that environmental sciences educators and program leadership are this year’s recipients of the Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award.

The award recognizes efforts that embody the spirit and values of stewardship, and the Fairfax County Public Schools environmental science team educators have done that by creating programs that have brought tangible educational and stewardship benefits to students, the local environment and our community.

With the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) program, science teachers have successfully partnered with the Fairfax County Park Authority, George Mason University and the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services to teach seventh graders about the importance of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. More than 10,000 students participate in the program each year. In addition, there are 100 science lessons in K-6 that encourage teachers to take students outside and use the environment as a context for learning.

The school system’s Get2Green program has partnered with the National Wildlife Federation Eco School USA program to develop student teams that work on a variety of environmental topics and to enhance teacher professional development. FCPS now has 75 registered Eco Schools and seven of those have achieved Green Flag status, the highest honor in that program. There are at least 75 more schools working on related projects. Schoolyard habitats can now be found at more than 90 schools, there are edible gardens at more than 60 schools, and 600 people are Blackboard Get2Green Community Members.

In addition, the science team has been working with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation’s Chesapeake Classrooms program, which enables teachers and school administrators to involve their school communities in outdoor learning experiences while focusing on methods for incorporating environmental education into the core subject areas of reading, math, science, and social studies. FCPS has been training an average of 12 to 15 teachers through the program for each of the past five summers.

The Sally Ormsby Award is one of several Park Authority and Park Foundation honors presented in November at the Elly Doyle Park Service Awards program. For more information, contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.

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