



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



NEWS RELEASE

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January 16, 2025

Rena Schild Named People's Choice Award Winner in 2025 First Hike Contest

The Fairfax County Park Authority is thrilled to announce Rena Schild as the winner of the People's Choice Award for the 2025 First Hike Fairfax Photo Contest. Rena's captivating photo, taken at Huntley Meadows Park, received the highest number of online votes submitted by residents from across the county. As the winner, Rena will receive a \$100 gift card, sponsored by the Fairfax County Park Foundation.



Rena Schild, Huntley Meadows Park

The 2025 First Hike Fairfax Photo Contest invited park enthusiasts of all ages to kick off the new year by exploring local parks and capturing their adventures through photography. The contest was a tremendous success, with more than 400 photo submissions and more than 700 residents participating in the People's Choice Award voting.

This year's inspiring First Hike submissions showcased the diverse landscapes, wildlife and recreational opportunities found throughout the Fairfax County park system, as well as precious moments that captured the enjoyment of both people and pets as they visited our parks. To view a full collection of this year's photo submissions, visit the First Hike Fairfax 2025 Flickr album.

Thank you to all our participants for their enthusiastic support of this year's First Hike event. We encourage everyone to continue exploring and enjoying our parks throughout 2025. Whether you're hiking a scenic trail, observing wildlife or simply enjoying a moment of peace in nature, there's always something new to discover.

For a complete list of winners, visit the First Hike Fairfax webpage at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/first-hike.

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First Hike Fairfax is sponsored in partnership with the Fairfax County Park Foundation. The Fairfax County Park Foundation supports the Park Authority by raising private funds, obtaining grants and creating partnerships that supplement tax dollars to meet community needs for park land, facilities and services. For more information, visit the Fairfax County Park Foundation website.



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Golf Fairfax Instructor Leads Meridian Mustangs to First State Title

Golf Fairfax congratulates Pinecrest golf instructor, Tim Sample, on his outstanding achievement of leading the Meridian High School golf team to its first Virginia state championship in school history.

Tim Sample was recognized in the Washington Post's 2024 Fall All-Met: Golf coverage. Sample took on the role of head coach for the Meridian High School in Falls Church, just weeks before the start of the season. Leveraging his coaching expertise and passion for the game, he helped transform the team's potential into a championship performance. Under his guidance, the Meridian Mustangs achieved an upset victory over Kettle Run in the Virginia 3C region tournament and secured the Class 3 state team title by five strokes.

At Golf Fairfax, Tim shares his expertise with golfers of all ages and skill levels, helping to foster a love for the game while honing their skills. "Tim's success with the golfers at Meridian reflects the dedication and talent he brings to our program at Pinecrest," said Tyler Tschantz, General Manager of Pinecrest Golf Course. "We are proud to have him on our team, inspiring golfers both on and off the course."

For more information about golf instruction at Pinecrest Golf Course, please visit the About Golf Fairfax webpage at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/pinecrest.

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Applications Now Being Accepted for 2025 Earth Day Fairfax Festival Vendors

Come be a part of the largest Earth Day celebration in Fairfax County!

The Fairfax County Park Authority is anticipating another stellar event with thousands of visitors gathering on Saturday, April 26, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Sully Historic Site in Chantilly to celebrate Earth Day. Applications are now being accepted online -- at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/earth-day-fairfax/vendor-exhibitor-information -- for vendors and exhibitors to participate in this outdoor extravaganza!

All applications must be received by Monday, Feb. 10 and rolling notifications of acceptance will be made through Feb. 14. In observance of Earth Day and the Park Authority's dedication to preserving our natural resources, we request that all food vendors, merchandise vendors and exhibitors plan to provide Earth-friendly utensils, handouts and giveaways.

Don't miss this opportunity to connect with thousands of Fairfax County residents as we celebrate our environment and encourage Earth-friendly stewardship practices.

For more information and about the event, hosting a booth and to submit your application, visit the Earth Day Festival Vendor/Exhibitor website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/earth-day-fairfax/vendor-exhibitor-information.

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