



Lynnhaven River NOW Pearl School Program Information for 2014 – 2015

The teachers in the public and private schools in our watershed and throughout the City of Virginia Beach are some of the most effective spokespeople in our community for water stewardship. You are doing a great job not only helping students understand watershed concepts, but also in developing an ethic of environmental responsibility and stewardship.

The goal of the Pearl School Program is to encourage and support the efforts of these teachers and schools. Through the Pearl School Program, schools will be able to earn points toward the Pearl School Award by carrying out educational and service projects in their schools. These projects teach environmental concepts, including understanding our watershed, its unique characteristics and problems while encouraging students to take an active role in tackling some of our environmental challenges through service projects in their schools and communities.

Helping to Restore the Legend

How the Pearl School Program Works

The Pearl School Award is recognition of individual schools that are providing their student body with a variety of environmental activities, exceeding the requirements of their curriculum and including activities recognized by the Lynnhaven River NOW Pearl School Award as outlined in this brochure. Schools do not compete against each other.

To earn a Pearl School Award the initial year and in subsequent years, a school must complete projects that add up to their level's required number of points. These projects must be documented and explained, listing the teacher, and project points. **Having multiple grade levels and teachers involved in these projects is strongly encouraged. This gives the entire school "ownership" of this award.**

POINT REQUIREMENTS		
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS 100 points the initial year 50 points in subsequent years	MIDDLE SCHOOLS 150 points the initial year 75 points in subsequent years	HIGH SCHOOLS 150 points the initial year 75 points in subsequent years

Schools must apply for The Pearl School Award annually. Applications are due by **5 pm on Wednesday, April 15, 2015** to be eligible for the 2014 – 2015 school year awards. Schools that achieve the award initially must apply within the next two years to be eligible for the subsequent year scoring requirements. *Schools waiting longer than two years must start over with the initial year requirement.*

Schools, teams and teachers are urged to review the *Suggested Projects* list for ideas and point assignments. Ideas for programs and projects not on the list may be designed and submitted in advance for approval.

Please note that a large project completed and receiving maximum credit in its completion year can be counted at half value in subsequent years if the project continues to be maintained, used in a learning capacity, and is documented and explained on the application. Limits may apply on some programs. *See application form for specific details.

Schools will be notified when their application is received. If you do not receive notification of receipt, confirm with Jody Ullmann at 757-962-5398 or Jody@LRNow.org. Do not assume your application has been received. Always keep a detailed copy of your application.

Schools earning the Pearl School status for the first time will be awarded with a large attractive banner to hang in the lobby of the school, as pictured on the front cover of

this flyer. The initial year that the school earns the award will appear on the banner. Each additional year the school earns their award, a new set of dates will be sent to the school to be added to the banner.

Lynnhaven River NOW will work to the best of our ability to present the initial year's banner at a school event, meeting or on the school's televised announcements. Please think about this date as you fill out your Pearl School application. Advanced planning for this initial presentation helps to ensure that the students who have worked to achieve this award are able to enjoy the recognition of this achievement. Subsequent years' award materials will be mailed to the school unless other arrangements are required.

SUGGESTED PROJECTS

Individual Study Projects:

2 Points Each

Limit 10 students for a total of 20 pts. each category; include each student's name and project/event.

- Student participation in a science competition such as Blue Crab Bowl, National Ocean Science Bowl, etc. with an environmental focus.
- Student participation in Tidewater Science Fair, through Junior Division. (Senior Division may be counted at 4 points each.)
- Student participation in a summer residency program with environmental focus.
- Student participation in a special writing event or contest (writing, art, etc.) about the Lynnhaven River.
- Student participation in river clean-ups.
- Students become a Pearl Home "block captain" (see LRNow website)
- Students participate in the Lynnhaven Trashion Show

Group I Projects:

5 Points Each

Group I projects give schools credit for one-time interactions or basic environmental projects, such as school-dictated recycling efforts. Group I Projects have no limit, with the exception of individual attendance of workshops or lectures.

- Host a program/guest speaker at your school on a Lynnhaven River topic
- Student and/or teacher participation in a Lynnhaven River NOW workshop or lecture- *Limit 4 teachers*
- Display a map of the Lynnhaven River watershed with your school's location identified. (Schools outside of the Lynnhaven watershed may display a map of their watershed in relation to the school, i.e. Back Bay, Owl Creek, etc.)

- Encourage full use of resources such as paper reuse and reusing “trash” in art classes and classroom projects.
- Teacher participation in Project WET, Project WILD, Project Learning Tree, WOW! The Wonders of Wetlands or other environmental education workshops or courses. *Limit 4 teachers.*
- Participate in a storm drain marking project on your school grounds and in your school’s neighborhoods.
- Plant a tree(s) on your school grounds
- Maintain an existing garden on your school grounds (weeding, general maintenance).
- Maintain Scoop the Poop boxes on school grounds
- On-going school-wide recycling programs (5pts for each type of material recycled ie. Cell phones, plastic, paper, etc.)

Group II Projects:

10 Points Each

Group II Projects give schools credit for grade level or school-wide interactions and recurring environmental projects, such as regularly-scheduled schoolyard trash clean-ups and recycling efforts.

- Support an environmental, “green”, ecology, or river keeper club.
- Keep an aquarium or display to represent the Lynnhaven River.
- Run a “Scoop the Poop campaign at your school (give out stickers, make posters, etc.)
- Install Scoop the Poop boxes on your school grounds
(<http://vbspca.com/modules/vbspcainfo/item.php?itemid=74>)
- Run a Pearl Home campaign and encourage parents to fill out an application
<http://www.lynnhavenrivernow.org/Pearl-Homes.aspx>
- Develop and implement a school policy utilizing organic gardening practices for your school gardens.
- Host a Clean the Bay Day site or other community-wide clean-up event.
- Regularly police school grounds for trash.
- Institute a NEW school-wide program to reduce energy and solid waste above the school division expectations (i.e. recycling cell phones, ink cartridges, Terra Cycle items etc.- 10pts for each type of material recycled during the first year of the program- 5 pts each year thereafter
- Offer a lecture/workshop/forum for school parents to address a school or community environmental issue (ex. Rain Barrel Workshop)
- Partner with a local garden club to make your gardens become community gardens.
- Participate in World Water Monitoring Day on September 18th (or within approved sampling period). Information at www.wwmd.org.

- Enhance an existing garden by adding plants (5pts. per grade level, discipline or organization/club that participates) - Maximum 15pts.
- Build and display a 3-D model of the Lynnhaven watershed
- Conduct a one-time environmental field trip or field study for some or all of your students in the Lynnhaven River or other watershed (10pts for each grade level that does a trip)
- Participate in Green Apple Day of Service on Sept. 28th. Information at <http://www.mygreenapple.org/>
- Mentor another school and help them to become a Pearl School for the first time.
- Participate in a composting or waste-reduction program for your school's cafeteria.

Group III Projects:

20 Points Each

Group III projects give schools credit for school or community-wide programs and projects that have a sustaining impact on the school population and beyond.

- Create and teach an interdisciplinary unit on the Lynnhaven River or other watershed (emphasizing the importance of upstream behaviors)
- Participate in an oyster gardening project.
- Participate in classroom programs through LRNow such as the "Growing Wetlands in the Classroom" program.
- Adopt a roadway or waterway through the City of Virginia Beach's Adopt-a-Space Program.
- Participate in a local foods program in your school cafeteria.
- Sponsor a contest (writing, art, etc.) on the Lynnhaven River.
- Sponsor a special event highlighting sustainability, recycling or the Lynnhaven River watershed. (ex."Trashion" show, Sustainability Fair, Earth Day)
- Set up a weekly/monthly monitoring program or field study on the Lynnhaven River or tributary.

Build a NEW Garden on school grounds. Each type of garden gets 20pts the first year and 10 points for each year it is maintained and used as a teaching tool.

Applicable gardens include:

- Rain garden
- Wildlife-friendly garden (i.e. birds, butterflies, amphibians).
- A buffer zone on your school property either along a waterway or along a storm water holding or removal feature.
- An organic vegetable or herb garden
- Native plant garden
- Phenology (Seasons) garden

If you have a project that you would like to see considered for the Pearl School Award Program, please submit that project for approval in advance of the Pearl School application due date.

Applications are due by **5 pm on Wednesday, April 15, 2014** to be eligible for the 2014 – 2015 school year award. They can be submitted electronically, faxed, mailed or dropped at the LRN office. Applications must be complete and received by the deadline for consideration. Any problems with the submission should be addressed to Jody Ullmann, Education Coordinator at Jody@LRNow.org or 757-962-5398.

Applications can be mailed or hand-delivered to:

Lynnhaven River NOW
Attn: Pearl School Award
1608 Pleasure House Road, Suite 108
Virginia Beach, VA 23455

Email applications to:

Jody@LRNow.org

Fax applications:

757-383-6907
To: Jody Ullmann
Attn: Pearl School Award



www.LRNow.org