



## Lynnhaven River NOW Pearl School Program Information and Resources for 2017 – 2018

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, 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 and in some cases, additional points are awarded.**

POINT REQUIREMENTS		
<b>ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS</b> 100 points the initial year 50 points in subsequent years	<b>MIDDLE SCHOOLS</b> 150 points the initial year 75 points in subsequent years	<b>HIGH SCHOOLS</b> 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 Friday, March 16, 2018** to be eligible for the 2017 – 2018 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 on-line application <http://www.lynnhavenrivernow.org/pearl-schools/> 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.

If you would like to meet with the Education Coordinator to discuss how you can become a Pearl School, please feel free to contact Jody Ullman at [jody@LRNow.org](mailto:jody@LRNow.org) to set up an appointment.

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.

Below are project categories and explanation or resources to help you plan and execute projects in that category. Please see the Application for the FULL listing of projects.

## **PROJECT CATEGORIES/RESOURCES**

### **Individual Study Projects:**

**2 Points Each**

*These are projects that students have completed either as part of a team or individually. They can be projects completed through a club/organization outside of school (4-H, scouts, etc.), in school or with their family.*

### **Competitions students can take part in:**

- Tidewater Science & Engineering Fair

<http://www.tidewatersciencecongress.org>

- Blue Crab Bowl <http://web.vims.edu/BCB/>
- Envirothon <https://www.envirothon.org/the-competition/current-competition>
- Lynnhaven Trashion Show- Feb 24, 2018 at Lynnhaven Mall  
<https://www.facebook.com/trashionshow/>

**Pearl Home Block Captain-** To be a block captain, a student must sign up at least 6 of their neighbors/friends to be Pearl Homes. They will receive a certificate and have their name listed in our State of the River Annual Report. Contact [jody@LRNow.org](mailto:jody@LRNow.org) for more information and to sign up.

## 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.

- **Storm Drain Marking Program:** This program is run through the Virginia Beach Department of Stormwater Management. Students go out and find the storm drains in a neighborhood or around the school. If they are not marked, they mark them with metal discs (all supplies are provided free of charge). If they are already marked, then the GPS coordinates are recorded and sent to the city for inclusion on the GIS map. For more Information, contact [Jody@LRNow.org](mailto:Jody@LRNow.org)
- **Bucket Program:** There are two LRNow Bucket Programs: **Diamondback Terrapins** for lower grades and **Shoreline Investigation** for upper grades/Earth Science. Teachers attend a training and then can check out a bucket filled with hands-on, SOL-based science inquiries that can be done on the property around the Brock Center. No cost for this program, except transportation to the Brock Center.
- **Rain Barrels:** You can purchase rain barrels through LRNow. The Farm's Market has rain barrel workshops where you can make a rain barrel to take home. <http://hrscene.com/event/rain-barrel-workshops-virginia-beach-master-gardener-water-stewards/2017-03-11/>

## 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.

- Recycling Projects outside of curbside recycling:  
<http://www.terracycle.com/en-US/brigades.html>  
<http://www.wholefoodsmarket.com/blog/whole-story/gimme-5-recycling>  
<http://about.hm.com/en/About/sustainability/commitments/reduce-waste/garment-collecting.html>  
<http://www.earth911.com/recycling-center-search-guides/>
- Participate in Green Apple Day of Service. Information at <http://www.mygreenapple.org/>
- Participate in the Governor's Conservation Classroom Challenge. Information at <https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/education/conservation-challenge/>
- Receive the Green Ribbon School Award or Virginia Naturally Award

- Compete the Environmental Literacy Challenge or Systemic Sustainability (Self-Assessment and Application). Information at:
- [http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/environmental\\_literacy/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/environmental_literacy/index.shtml)

#### Citizen Science Projects:

- <https://scistarter.com/citizenscience.html>
- <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/idea/citizen-science-projects/>
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#### 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.

- Adopt a roadway or waterway through the City of Virginia Beach's Adopt-a-Space Program. Contact <http://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/parks-recreation/parks-trails/caring-for-our-parks/Pages/adopt-a-programs.aspx>
- Oyster Gardening- contact: Oyster Reef Keepers [laurie@oysterreefkeepers.org](mailto:laurie@oysterreefkeepers.org) or [laurie@LRNow.org](mailto:laurie@LRNow.org)
- Garden Partners:

#### **Surfrider Foundation**-<https://vb.surfrider.org/>

This organization does a program dealing with marine debris and its effects on the environment. The students then create reusable bags. They have program to help fund and plant Ocean Friendly Gardens.

**LRNow Growing Wetlands in the Classroom:** This program, funded by Dollar Tree, gives teachers Grow-Labs, plants, soil and pots. They grow out the plants in the classroom and then plant them either on designated restoration sites or on the school property. For more info and to sign up contact [jody@LRNow.org](mailto:jody@LRNow.org)

**\*\*NEW THIS YEAR:**

Applications are due by **5 pm on Friday, March 16, 2018** to be eligible for the 2017 – 2018 school year award. All projects completed between March 1, 2017- Feb 28, 2018 are eligible to be counted for the 2017-2018 Pearl School Award Application. This year applications are being done on Google Forms, so by completing the application and hitting send, I will receive your application. You can go back and amend an application if you need to.

They can also be scanned and emailed or printed and 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, Pearl School/Education Coordinator at [Jody@LRNow.org](mailto:Jody@LRNow.org) or 757-962-5398.

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](mailto:Jody@LRNow.org). Do not assume your application has been received. Always keep a detailed copy of your application.

**Applications can be mailed or hand-delivered to:**

Lynnhaven River NOW  
Attn: Pearl School Award  
The Brock Environmental Center  
3663 Marlin Bay Drive  
Virginia Beach, VA 23455

**Email applications to:**

[Jody@LRNow.org](mailto:Jody@LRNow.org)

[www.LRNow.org](http://www.LRNow.org)

