



Program Criteria

6-12th Grade Champions in Action™

Taking action to restore and protect America's Everglades

Who is eligible to participate in the 6-12th Grade Champions in Action Program?

- Any Florida public, private, charter, or parochial school teacher serving students in grades 6-12 is eligible to participate in the program. **Limited to 2 teachers per school unless otherwise approved by the Champions Program Manager.**
- Teachers participating in the program must already have attended a Middle/High School Everglades Literacy Teacher Training provided by and/or endorsed by The Everglades Foundation within the last three years.
- Teachers participating in the program must complete the Everglades Civic Action Teacher Training provided by The Everglades Foundation or Earth Force prior to year of implementation with students.
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- Teachers must be able to implement this program with a **minimum of 10 middle/high school students** in either the classroom, afterschool, or a club setting.
- Teachers participating in this program are already familiar with implementing Everglades lessons from the Everglades Literacy Teacher Toolkit.

Program Benefits:

- Participants may increase their environmental stewardship and awareness.
- Participants will develop youth-adult partnership that create sustainable civic change in their local ecological communities.
- Lead educators will receive compensation pending completion of all program requirements.
- Lead educators may be eligible to receive some project funding for their civic action project conducted for this program.
- Schools will receive branded Everglades Champions awards & materials.



The 6-12th Grade Champions in Action Program Criteria are:

Priority 1: Attend Professional Development Training

I. Professional Development

- **A. Everglades Literacy Teacher Training (Middle/High School Level) *required**
 - The educator that has committed to the program is required to have attended an Middle/High School Everglades Literacy Teacher Training (in-person or virtually) within the last three years and prior to participating in the program.
 - *~Training time varies from 4-6 hours*

- **B. Everglades Civic Action Teacher Training *required**
 - The educator that has committed to participating in the program is required to have attended the Civic Action Teacher Training (in-person or virtually) with either The Everglades Foundation or Earth Force.
 - *~ Training time is approximately 6-10 hours.*
 - *~Training stipends may be available.*

- **C. 1-to-1 Status Report Meeting *required**
 - Participating educators are required to meet with The Everglades Foundation's Champion Schools Educator Team to provide a mid-year status report (Jan.- early Feb.) on their progress in the program.
 - *~ Approximately 1 hour (virtually or in-person)*

- **D. Monthly Virtual Support Meetings (optional)**
 - The Everglades Foundation's Champion Schools Educator Team offers a monthly support meeting for participating educators to network and receive program support. Educators will be able to ask questions and learn from other educators that have piloted the program.
 - *~ Approximately 1 hour per month*

Priority 2: Integrating Everglades Literacy & Civic Action into the Curriculum

II. Curriculum Integration

• A. Everglades Literacy Teacher Toolkit Implementation

- The K-12 Everglades Literacy Teacher Toolkit contains comprehensive Everglades lesson plans that align with the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards. These lessons introduce students to the fundamental concepts that promote greater Everglades literacy that all students, and all Floridians, should understand.
 1. At least **three (3) middle/high school lessons** from the Everglades Literacy Teacher Toolkit are implemented with the students participating in the Program. Lessons selected should be related to the overarching Everglades topic selected for the Community/Civic Action Project.
 2. **Documentation is required.** Examples may include but are not limited to, images of sample student work, images or teacher instruction, and/or images that capture student learning for each of the implemented lessons. This is to be included in the Program's Final Reporting Form by the end of the Program (May/June).

• B. Everglades Civic Action Project Implementation

1. Educators will follow the Everglades Champions in Action **6-Step Community Action and Problem Solving Process** to complete at least one student-led project-based civic action that focuses on either making sustainable changes to community practices (behaviors) and/or policies in the local community with a **minimum of 10 middle/high school students from their school.**

The civic action project must address one of the following areas of environmental issues that impacts the Everglades community:

- Water Quality & Quantity
- Invasive Species of Florida (plants and/or animals)
- Everglades Habitat Degradation
- Endangered and/or Threatened Species of the Everglades

2. **Documentation is required.** Schools are expected to provide evidence by capturing images for each steps accomplished in the civic action project. This will be provided through a written project story and a 5 minute (or less) video that presents their civic action. [See Program Documentation.](#)

Note: Implementation of the civic action components takes a minimum of 1 full semester to implement.



Priority 3: Program Documentation

- **A. Video Submission.** Schools are expected to use their documentation collected throughout the year to create a 5 minute (or less) video that presents their complete Everglades Champions in Action journey. If an educator has more than one project, please submit the top 3 project videos that will be uploaded to the Final Reporting Form.
 - a. [See full Video Criteria \(click link\)](#)
 - b. **Media Release Forms** provided by The Everglades Foundation are required for all subjects in film production regardless if student/adult.
 - i. These will be uploaded on the Final Reporting Form and **SHOULD NOT** be combined with any other school related documents.

- **B. Final Reporting Form.** Online submission to be completed by the end of the Program that includes all program criteria components and supporting documentation for each educator participating in the Everglades Champion Schools in Action Program.
 - a. Access to Final Reporting Forms will be available via our website under 6-12 Champions after educators have been approved for program participation.

Designation of an Everglades Champion School for grades 6-12 will be based on completion of this program criteria. All areas of the criteria need to be implemented or addressed in the school year in which you are participating in the Everglades Champions in Action Program.

We will celebrate and share our successes together at the end of the year in a virtual K-12 Celebration of Champions event!

Preparing young people for a role in environmental decision making requires helping them love the environment AND building their confidence that they can create change in their community. Our approach is based on the idea that the best way to build that confidence is to give them tools they can use to effect change and first-hand experience using those tools.

~ Vince Meldrum, Earth Force