



K-5 Everglades Champion™ Schools

LEADERS' GUIDE

*A reference document designed to support the
K-5 Everglades Lead Teacher(s).*

Dear Everglades School Leader(s),

Welcome to the K-5 Everglades Champion Schools Program! The Everglades Champion Schools Program (ECSP) is an exciting interdisciplinary program developed by The Everglades Foundation that showcases and recognizes Florida schools that demonstrate exceptional Everglades efforts and initiatives, like your school, each year. The goal of the program is to engage and empower a school's community to become stewards of the River of Grass. The program includes participation from teachers, students, administrators, community partners, parents, and others.

An Everglades Champion School is filled with individuals eager to learn about the Everglades and how to conserve it. Your school will become an Everglades Champion School by completing an application and documenting how your school addresses different categories and indicators from the Champion Schools Evaluation Criteria. You may earn points by integrating Everglades education into the classroom through lesson plans, projects, and field experiences, and developing a culture of Everglades stewardship within the community.

We have created this K-5 Everglades Champion Schools Leaders' Guide as a reference guide designed to support the Everglades Lead Teacher contacts that were included on your Intent to Apply form.

If you have any questions, I would be happy to assist you. I look forward to hearing from you—and working together on behalf of your students and the Everglades!

Cordially,

Alicia Torres

K-12 Everglades Champion Schools Program Manager

The Everglades Foundation

Office: 561-233-9004

Email: atorres@evergladesfoundation.org





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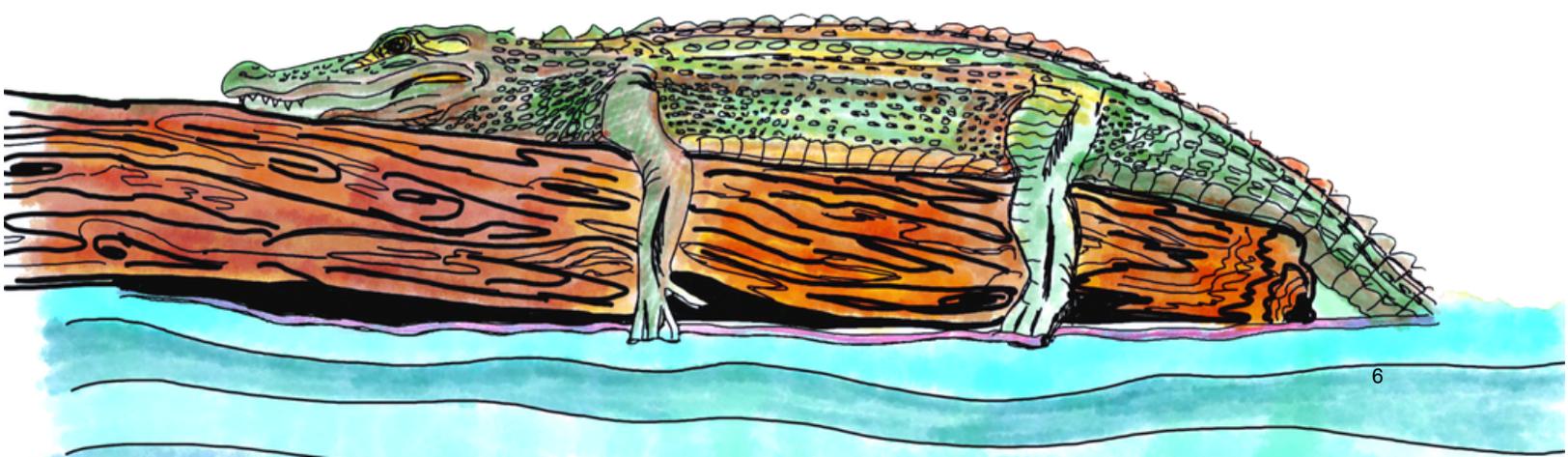
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The Everglades Foundation™

is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to restoring and protecting the Everglades. Founded in 1993 by two outdoor enthusiasts — the late George Barley and Paul Tudor Jones II — The Everglades Foundation works tirelessly to bring people together and provide a powerful voice for Everglades restoration at the state and national levels.

Today, The Everglades Foundation stands as a well-respected authoritative source for scientific research on the Everglades. Our renowned scientists are passionate researchers, dedicated to providing sound science and practical analysis to help local, state, and national leaders make well-informed decisions. By coupling sound science with policy expertise, the Foundation is positioned as one of the most influential players in the fight to restore and protect one of the world's most unique wetlands.

MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

The Everglades Foundation works to protect and restore America's Everglades through science, advocacy, and **education**.

We envision an Everglades with abundant freshwater for consumption, enjoyment, ecological health and economic growth for generations to come.

Learn more on the website - www.evergladesfoundation.org.

Everglades Education™

The Everglades Literacy Program gives teachers the tools and knowledge to teach and move forward in educating current and future generations. The program provides teachers, students, schools, and families with:

01

STEM/STEAM-based professional development –
Everglades Literacy Teacher Trainings.

02

Free lessons and materials for each teacher who attends a teacher training.

03

Free, online K-12 Teacher Toolkit with 36 comprehensive Everglades lesson plans that align with Next Generation Sunshine State Standards.

04

Additional instructional resources beyond our K-12 Teacher Toolkit that can be utilized in the classroom.

05

K-12 Everglades Champion Schools Program - designed to showcase and recognize exceptional Everglades literacy efforts in a school.

06

Classroom presentations, participation in science nights, field trips, and other school events.

MEET THE TEAM



Jennifer Diaz,
Vice President of Education
jdiaz@evergladesfoundation.org



Bianca Cassouto,
Education Program Manager
bcassouto@evergladesfoundation.org



Alicia Torres,
K-12 Champion Schools
Program Manager
atorres@evergladesfoundation.org



Kim Gooch,
Everglades Literacy Program
Coordinator, Orlando
kgooch@evergladesfoundation.org



Susan Toth,
Environmental
Education Specialist
stoth@evergladesfoundation.org



Analise Fussell,
K-12 Education and
Outreach Assistant
afussell@evergladesfoundation.org

General Email: evergladeschampion@evergladesfoundation.org

Getting Started in the Program

The **K-5 Everglades Champion Schools (ECS) Leaders' Guide** is designed to support the appointed Everglades Lead Teacher contacts, like yourself, that were included on your Intent to Apply form. This tool encompasses program details, resources, and quick reference sheets all in one place to guide you through the steps to complete the K-5 Everglades Champion Schools Application process and become a recognized bronze, silver, or gold-level Everglades Champion School.

Your Role as the Everglades Lead Teacher(s)

- Lead your Everglades School Team as the designated liaison representing your school for the ECS Program.
- Remain in contact with the ECS Program Manager for program support.
 - 1-to-1 Program support meetings are available - Contact K-12 Champion Schools Program Manager, atorres@evergladesfoundation.org
- Complete the ECS Application & Upload Documentation by the deadline (Third Thursday in May).
- Receive the ECS monthly newsletters and distribute information to an appropriate audience within your school community.
- Attend the Virtual Celebration of Champions Recognition Event (June).
- Receive and distribute Champion School recognition materials for your school (August/September).

What's Next?

- 01 Start by formulating an **Everglades School Team**. We encourage your team to include one teacher from each grade level and an administrator, but it should include **two lead teachers and one supporting administrator at a minimum**.
 - Discuss your school goals, how you will address the categories of the Evaluation Criteria, and your school's implementation plan for the program.
- 02 **Download/Print** out the full version of the Evaluation Criteria from our website (see QR code or PDF at the end of this document).

What are the Evaluation Criteria?

The Evaluation Criteria are an objective set of measures and are based on a point system for the categories and indicators of the program. Schools can earn points for each of the following four categories towards becoming a bronze, silver, or gold-level Champion School.

- I. Professional Development
- II. Integrating Everglades Literacy into the Curriculum
- III. Everglades Community & Culture
- IV. Everglades Extensions: Above and Beyond



Under each category are indicators or sub-categories that identify how schools may specifically earn points for each category. The ultimate goal is to see school-wide involvement so that the whole school sees themselves as an “Everglades Champion School”.

K-5 Evaluation Criteria: At-A-Glance

Category	Possible Points	Indicators		
I. Professional Development	45 *	A. Everglades Literacy Teacher Trainings (25 points) + (5 pts bonus*)	B. Everglades Content Knowledge Modules (12 points)	C. Additional Everglades Trainings (8 points)
II. Integrating Everglades Literacy Curriculum	45**	A. Everglades Literacy Teacher Toolkit Implementation (25 points)	B. Everglades Interdisciplinary Approach (10 points) + (5 pts. bonus**)	C. Field Experiences (10 points)
III. Community & Culture	30	A. Everglades Student Ambassadors (10 points)	B. Community Partnerships (10 points)	C. School Culture & Administrative Support (10 points)
IV. Everglades Extensions	10	Judges may award up to 10 points for Everglades initiatives that have gone above & beyond the scope of the other categories, or for initiatives that do not fit in neatly elsewhere.		
Total	130	(+10 If bonus points are awarded)		

What Two Indicators are Required?

Although you may not be able to achieve points for every indicator, there are two indicators that are mandatory as they are the foundation for the Everglades Champion Schools Program: Everglades Literacy Teacher Trainings (I.A) and Everglades Literacy Teacher Toolkit Implementation (II.A).

A. Everglades Literacy Teacher Trainings (25 points) + (5 pts bonus*)

A. Everglades Literacy Teacher Toolkit Implementation (25 points)

Accessing Your Application

Each school is responsible for submitting a Champion Schools Application by the deadline date (third Thursday in May). The application questions directly align to the categories and indicators described in the Program's Evaluation Criteria. The application should be an ongoing collection process throughout the school year. Proper documentation of your efforts will be required to support this application.

Access your application with the following steps:

- 01 Go to our education website: www.evergladesliteracy.org.
- 02 Click on the "Champion Schools" tab located in the top toolbar.
- 03 Scroll down and click on the K-5 icon.
- 04 Find "How to Become a K-5 Champion School" and click on "find out more".
- 05 Look for Step 3: "Fill out the Application" and click on "Apply Now". By this point, you should have already completed steps 1 and 2.
- 06 The first time that you try to access the application, you will be prompted to create a profile (or register) with a first and last name followed by an email address. When you register your profile, it should be with the lead teacher contact that is primarily responsible for entering information on the application.

****Remember your password. We won't have access to the password you created.**
- 07 Click on "View Forms".
- 08 Select this year's "K-5 Everglades Champion Schools Application"
- 09 Click "Apply" to start your application.
- 10 Answer all of the questions to the best of your ability. If questions or fields are not applicable, enter N/A. This application automatically saves to your profile that you set up.
 - Keep the application in DRAFT form until you are ready to submit your completed application.
- 11 Utilize the navigation sidebar on the application to see your progress.

Tip:

Set a password that you don't mind sharing with other members of your school team that will be helping you to complete the application. They will need to use your login information to see your draft application.

Uploading Documentation With Your Application

In order for our panel of judges to award points for each of your Everglades initiatives and efforts included on your application, it is required to have documentation submitted. Missing documentation may result in the loss of points that could have been awarded.

Your Documentation files are to be uploaded throughout the application. Documentation helps paint a picture of the Everglades initiatives at your school. Please provide concise details that accurately describe or support your initiatives.

- If there are multiple forms of documentation that are being uploaded, **please label each uploaded document** to correlate to the grade level or activity described on the application.
- If you include **external links** or **videos**- make sure that your settings permit viewing outside your school network (“Anyone can view”).
- Choose the best images or forms of documentation that portray your initiatives **and caption your photos**. Multiple examples of the same student work do not need to be included.

Examples of documentation are provided in the Evaluation Criteria.

In the event that you are having trouble accessing your application, please notify the Champion Schools Program Manager, Alicia Torres at:
atorres@evergladesfoundation.org or evergladeschampion@evergladesfoundation.org

Submission & Celebration

When to Submit Your Application?

Applications need to be submitted by 11:55 pm on the deadline date identified as the **third Thursday** in May of each school year.

Application Checklist before Submitting

- Double-check the spelling of your school name and address provided in your application. This information will be printed on all recognition materials.
- Double-check all your fields in your application prior to submission for accuracy and completeness.
- Utilize the navigation sidebar on the application to make sure all have a checkmark for completion.
- Make sure you've uploaded proper documentation for each category. If external links are provided, make sure all settings permit other people outside your organization to view them. *Any links that are not accessible by our judges will not be considered for your evaluation.*
- Once your application is completed, select **"Submit"** your application.

What Happens After You Submit Your Application?

- You will receive a confirmation email that acknowledges your application submission.
- Our panel of Everglades judges will review your application, and determine your school's final score. The level of recognition - bronze, silver, or gold - is determined by the amount of points earned.
- You will receive an invitation to attend our **Virtual Celebration of Champions Recognition Event** (June) where recognition levels for participating schools will be announced.

BRONZE CHAMPION



SILVER CHAMPION



GOLD CHAMPION



Virtual Celebration of Champions Recognition Event

We will celebrate all our schools' successes together and recognize schools as **bronze, silver, or gold-level K-5 Everglades Champion Schools** at our Celebration of Champions event in early June. We would hope that at least one representative from your school would attend the [Celebration of Champions Recognition Event](#). Notifications of your level or recognition will also be shared after the event to your Principal, and Everglades Leaders. Any special awards will also be announced at this event.

When will our school receive Champion Schools branded recognition materials?

The Everglades Foundation will ship or deliver your recognition materials to your provided school address by August/September.

Post-Program Survey

Following the Recognition Event, you will receive a request to complete a post-program survey. Your input is valuable to us to help us improve and better support participating Champion Schools in the future.



K-5 Everglades Champion™ Schools

QUICK REFERENCE SHEETS

Category I. Professional Development

- A. Everglades Literacy Teacher Trainings
- B. Everglades Content Knowledge Modules
- C. Additional Everglades-Related Trainings

Category II. Integrating Everglades Literacy into the Curriculum

- A. Everglades Literacy Teacher Toolkit
- B. Everglades Interdisciplinary Approach
- C. Everglades Field Experiences

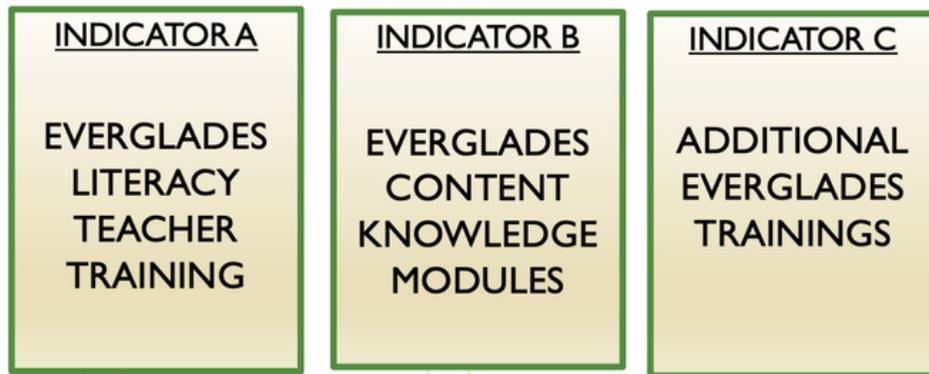
Category III. Everglades Community and Culture

- A. Everglades Student Ambassadors
- B. Community Partnerships
- C. School Culture and Administrative Support

Category IV. Everglades Extensions: Above and Beyond

Category I: Professional Development

THERE ARE 3 INDICATORS FOR THIS CATEGORY:



A. Everglades Literacy Teacher Training™

The first indicator, [Everglades Literacy Teacher Training](#), is the foundation for the Everglades Champion Schools Program. This professional development is provided by The Everglades Foundation to build a school's Everglades literacy capacity as a way to ensure that all Florida students understand the importance of the Everglades.

IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED AN EVERGLADES CHAMPION SCHOOL, AT LEAST TWO TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND A TRAINING.

Types of Training

We offer this training throughout the school year either face-to-face or virtually scheduled as a whole school training or an off-campus training.

- Time allotted for virtual training: 3 - 6 hours (varies by district requirements).
- Time allotted for face-to-face trainings: 4-6 hours (varies by requests).

Requesting an Everglades Literacy Teacher Training

- Option 1: Complete this [request form](https://www.evergladesliteracy.org/get-involved) from our website at <https://www.evergladesliteracy.org/get-involved>
- Option 2: Inquire training information by contacting an Education Team member.

B. Everglades Content Knowledge Modules

Everglades Content Knowledge Online Modules, the second indicator, are independent, self-paced online professional development opportunities. These are not mandatory but are a great opportunity to increase teachers' content knowledge about various topics of the Everglades.

Module topics to choose from:

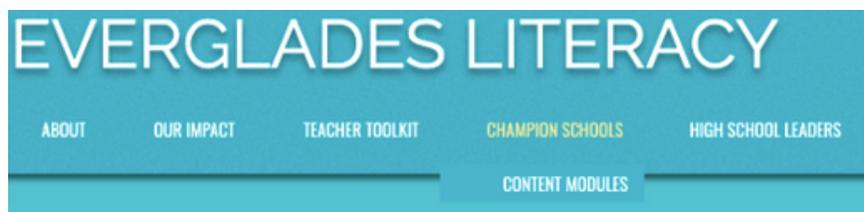
- Module 1: Introduction to the Historic Everglades Watershed
- Module 2: Geology of the Everglades
- Module 3: Hydrology of the Everglades
- Module 4: Nutrient Cycling in the Everglades
- Module 5: The Ecological Communities of the Everglades

These modules can be completed in any order by any teachers or administrators at your school whether or not they have attended an Everglades Literacy Teacher Training. Points are earned when teachers have a passing score of 60/80 (75%).

Your school can earn up to 12 points for this indicator. Plan strategically for this indicator because module points can only be applied in the year in which they are completed. Teachers may also complete more than one module.

Accessing the Modules

- Go to our website: www.evergladesliteracy.org
- Click on “**Champion Schools**” located on the toolbar.
- Select “**Content Modules**” from the dropdown menu.



- You will be prompted to enter a password – enter [contentmodules](#) (lower case).

**Tip: Print the module's Guiding Questions before starting each module.*

Guest Area

Please enter the password below.

Password

Documentation for Content Modules

Documentation for Indicators I.A. & B. should be the [Professional Development Records spreadsheet](#) that is provided to you from The Everglades Foundation Education Team that displays the passing score for each of the teachers.

PD Records spreadsheet that EF provides:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1					Module 1	Module 2	Module 3	Module 4	Module 5
2	Email	Teacher Name	School	County	Passed?	Passed?	Passed?	Passed?	Passed?
3		Alli Gator	EF Elementary	Martin	PASS				
4		Ann Hinga	EF Elementary	Martin	PASS	PASS			
5		Robin Smith	EF Elementary	Martin	DID NOT PASS				
6		Man A. Tee	EF Elementary	Martin	PASS				
7									

+ ☰ **EVERGLADES LITERACY TRAINING LIST** ▼ **CONTENT KNOWLEDGE MODULES LIST** ▼ **SYMPOSIUM 2021** ▼

C. Additional Everglades-Related Trainings

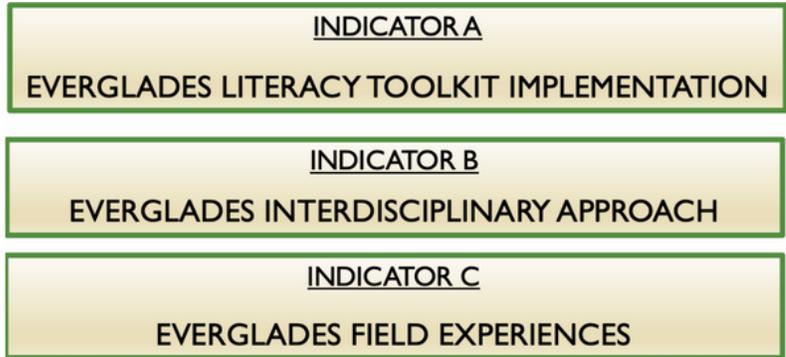
The third indicator, [Additional Everglades-Related Trainings](#), while also not mandatory, allows schools to earn points for any teachers, administrators, or staff that attended any in-person or virtual workshops and/or conferences that focus on Everglades education.

For example, if you attended our Annual Everglades Teacher Symposium in the summer then you may apply it to your current Champion School Application under this indicator.



Category II: Integrating Everglades Literacy into the Curriculum

THERE ARE 3 INDICATORS FOR THIS CATEGORY:



A. Everglades Literacy Teacher Toolkit™ Implementation

Implementation of the [Everglades Literacy Teacher Toolkit](#) is the second of the two required indicators. It is required that your school implement these lessons with, at a minimum, 20% of your total student population.

The Teacher Toolkit offers:

- 3 lessons for each grade level aligned to the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards.
- Provides downloadable PowerPoints, student sheets, and rubrics.
- Lessons that introduce students to key aspects of the Everglades ecosystem including the watershed, endangered species, water conservation, and other topics.

DISCOVER THE EVERGLADES LITERACY PROGRAM'S

K-12 Curriculum



Points are awarded based on the percentage of the total student population who have completed the three lessons for their grade level. Toolkit lessons can be implemented by any trained or untrained teachers at your school.

Accessing the Everglades Literacy Teacher Toolkit

Use the following quick link: <https://www.evergladesliteracy.org/teacher-tool-kit>

OR

- Go to our website: www.evergladesliteracy.org
- Click on “Teacher Toolkit” located on the toolbar.



- Scroll down to the K-12 Curriculum and click on the appropriate grade level.
- Download and print (if necessary).

Request for Lesson Supplies

We don't want the materials for each of the lessons to be an obstacle from implementing our lessons with your students. You may contact a member of the Education Team to request grade-level materials to be shipped to your school.

Scan the QR code below to fill out the [Everglades Literacy Materials Request Form](#):



**Please give at least 2 weeks' notice in order for our team to prep and ship.*

B. Everglades Interdisciplinary Approach

The purpose of this indicator, **Everglades Interdisciplinary Approach**, while not mandatory, is for educators to integrate Everglades projects/lessons across multiple disciplines or subject areas that focus on Everglades conservation or help students build upon and enhance awareness of the Everglades.

The Champions Program would like to see at least 1 Everglades-focused interdisciplinary project/lesson be implemented at each grade level. Your school earns more points for the number of students participating. If a grade level implements more than one per grade level, then those additional efforts should be included in *Category IV. Everglades Extensions: Above and Beyond* because your school went beyond the scope of this indicator.

Helpful Tip: Teachers may use 6-12 grade Everglades Toolkit Lessons, modify it to be interdisciplinary, and implement it with their students for this indicator. They can not be from the K-5 Teacher Toolkit since that is classified under the first indicator of this category.

The possibilities are endless for this indicator but we've provided some project examples for each grade level on our website to get the creative juices going.

- Go to: <https://www.evergladesliteracy.org/k-5-champions>
- Click on the button titled "Application Resources".
 - Click the section titled "Interdisciplinary Projects".
- You may download or view it as a PDF that contains Interdisciplinary examples.

Additional Instructional Resources

Our **Additional Instructional Resources** are bite-size, interdisciplinary lesson plans, videos, and activities, that are a great starting point for this indicator. Many of these lessons have been adapted from the Teacher Toolkit, and aligned to Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (Coming Soon: B.E.S.T Standards alignment).



C. Everglades Field Experiences

For the third indicator, **Field Experiences**, while not mandatory, students learn about the Everglades through guided first-hand observations and/or investigations that allow *students to collect data in the field* or outdoors like their local environments including your school grounds or natural areas.

If schools are not permitted to provide a direct interaction because of COVID or other school restrictions, then virtual Everglades-based field experiences are applicable. We have a great set of virtual field experiences from Odyssey Earth, complete with student data sheets, and field guides on our website or select the link below to get started.

Start your [Interactive 360-degree virtual field experiences here:](#)



Like **Indicator II.B**, the point structure is also based on the percentage of students in the school who participate in at least *one field experience*. Please keep in mind that field trips are a great way to get your students outdoors, but you would want to adjust your trip so that students have the opportunities to collect data in order for it to be considered a field experience.

For **example**, a field trip can take students on an airboat excursion in the Everglades; **however**, a field experience can have students collect and compare the water quality data from several different locations, or quantify the different flora and fauna.

Examples of Field Experiences

- Pair the Mangrove Swamp Interactive 360-degree habitat video with a field guide and the provided student field datasheet to conduct a virtual field experience.
- Students attend a field trip to a hardwood hammock to learn about food chains in this habitat. Students analyze and record data on scat samples from animals of the hardwood hammock and try to identify which animal the scat belongs to.
- Students conduct bird counts or other plant/wildlife surveys on or off school grounds and then classify if the species are native or non-native species of the Everglades.

Implementation Idea:

Connect science inquiry to the field experience to use as a science fair project that is environmentally based. When you do a deep dive investigation using science inquiry, these field experiences now become field studies.

Learn more details about field experiences and studies in our Application Resources section found on our website.

Category III: Everglades Community and Culture

THERE ARE 3 INDICATORS FOR THIS CATEGORY:

INDICATOR A
EVERGLADES
STUDENT
AMBASSADORS

INDICATOR B
COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIPS

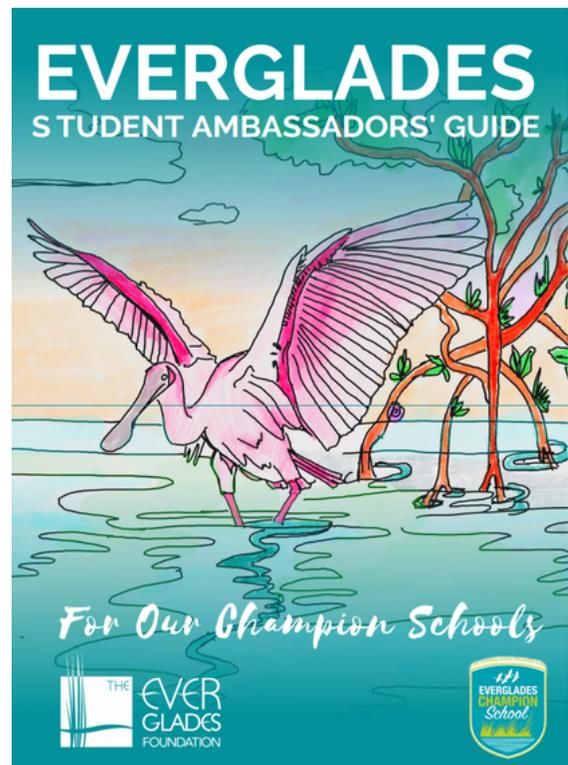
INDICATOR C
SCHOOL CULTURE & ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

A. Everglades Student Ambassadors

The first indicator, [Everglades Student Ambassadors](#), while not mandatory, is a leadership opportunity for your students to be the voice of the Everglades and take action in their schools, homes, and communities.

The purpose of a student ambassador is to educate others about the Everglades and protect the ecosystem through everyday decisions and lifelong commitment.

Ambassadors work both individually and together to produce a positive change in attitude and protection of the environment.



Everglades Student Ambassadors' Guide

The *Everglades Student Ambassadors' Guide* is designed to support educators as they establish Everglades Student Ambassadors at their school. It is complete with an Everglades pledge, research resources, and a step-by-step guide for students to take action in their community. (See website or appendix for full version).

Student Ambassadors can be a part of a class or a new or existing organization. A school may already have an existing environmental club, garden club, or something similar where it is appropriate to discuss Everglades education and initiatives. A new club or group can also be organized to specifically address Everglades education and initiatives.

Student Ambassadors will exhibit skills such as:

- Brainstorming
- Planning
- Organization
- Dedication
- Good communication
- Collaboration
- Creativity
- Teamwork

Use the Guide at the end of this document, or access from our website under the "[Champion Schools Application Resources](#)" section.

Everglades Student Ambassadors' Pledge

It is ideal to have your Student Ambassadors understand the importance of a pledge, and use it to reflect on throughout the year. Student Ambassadors are agreeing to being an active voice of the Everglades. Signing the pledge is a great way to start off a student ambassador meeting. It is encouraged to provide students with opportunities to share their commitment with teachers, family, and friends.

- Use the Pledge at the end of this document, or print from our website under the Champion Schools "[Everglades Student Ambassadors](#)" section.

B. Community Partnerships

The second indicator in this category is **Community Partnerships**. Partners are businesses or organizations that provide services and/or resources to the school. Through each partnership, schools work with the community at large to teach the importance of Everglades literacy through community and/or service-learning activities. If necessary, virtual connections with community partners are also an option.

The goal of this indicator is that, over time, schools will develop multiple ongoing partnerships within the local community. Schools will work together with community partners throughout the year on a regular basis to support your Everglades initiatives.

Helpful Tip: Look at the community partnerships that your school already has established and see if there is a way to incorporate an Everglades community and/or service-learning project. It can be beneficial to your school or community.

C. School Culture and Administrative Support

The third indicator is **School Culture & Administrative Support**. It is so important to have support from your school administration so that you can develop an Everglades Champion school culture. Developing an Everglades school culture is really about changing behaviors and having a greater understanding of the Everglades environment on a whole-school basis.

You can start building a culture by forming an Everglades Champion School Team with teachers, administrators, and parents that would meet during the school year to discuss your school goals and ways to accomplish them.

Everglades literacy as part of the school's culture may be illustrated through:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • School-wide projects | • Highlights on the school website |
| • Community events | • Changes in school policies |
| • Newsletter articles | • And much more! |
| • Posts on social media | |

Developing an Everglades school culture is about sharing your Everglades Champion Schools efforts with a greater community.

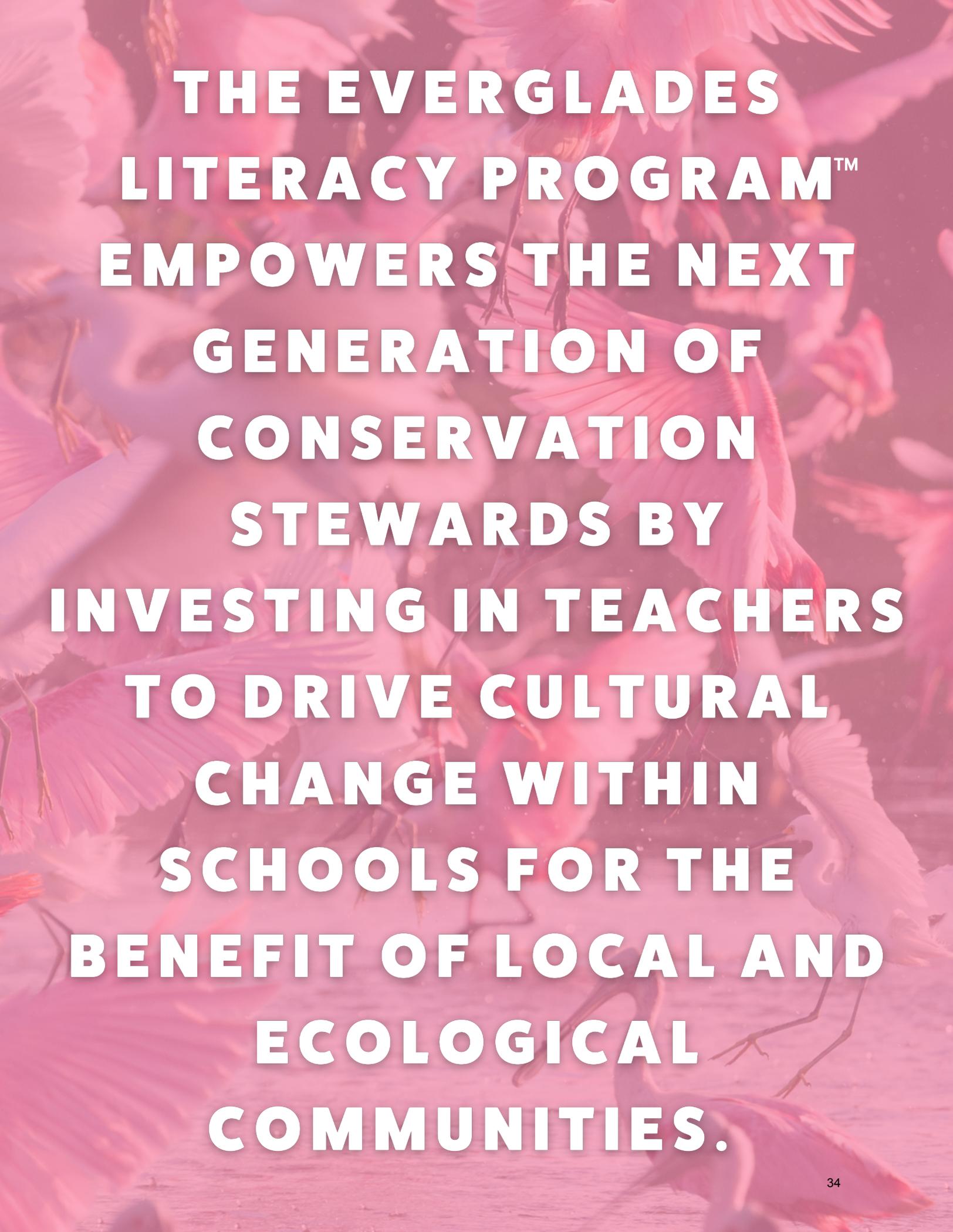
Category IV: Everglades Extensions: Above and Beyond

The fourth and final category is **Everglades Extensions: Above & Beyond**. The Everglades Extensions category awards up to ten points to projects that go “above and beyond” the scope of the other categories, or for Everglades initiatives that do not fit neatly in other categories.

This category can also be used to document activities where your school went above the maximum requirements in various indicators. A project that the school is particularly proud of, and creatively implemented can also be written about under this category.

(Refer to the Evaluation Criteria for examples).





**THE EVERGLADES
LITERACY PROGRAM™
EMPOWERS THE NEXT
GENERATION OF
CONSERVATION
STEWARDS BY
INVESTING IN TEACHERS
TO DRIVE CULTURAL
CHANGE WITHIN
SCHOOLS FOR THE
BENEFIT OF LOCAL AND
ECOLOGICAL
COMMUNITIES.**



K-5 Everglades Champion™ Schools

LEADERS' GUIDE APPENDIX

Here you will find the attached documents:

- K-5 Everglades Champion Schools Program 2021-2022 Evaluation Criteria
- Everglades Student Ambassador Guide
 - Everglades Student Ambassador Pledge



K-5 Everglades Champion Schools Program

2021 – 2022 Evaluation Criteria

- I. Professional Development
- II. Integrating Everglades Literacy into the Curriculum
- III. Everglades Community & Culture
- IV. Everglades Extensions: Above and Beyond

For any questions, contact the Champions Program Manager at evergladeschampion@evergladesfoundation.org.

Website: www.evergladesliteracy.org

K-5 Everglades Champion Schools Program

2021-2022 Evaluation Criteria Overview

The evaluation criteria are based on a point system where the maximum number of points for all four categories is 130 points. A Champion School’s ultimate goal should be school-wide involvements including student-led initiatives. The number of points that schools earn on their applications determines their recognition levels: Bronze (40-70 points), Silver (71-101 points), or Gold (102-130 points). *Proper documentation is required to earn points.*

Category	Possible Points	Indicators		
I. Professional Development	45 *	A. Everglades Literacy Teacher Trainings (25 points) + (5 pts bonus*)	B. Everglades Content Knowledge Modules (12 points)	C. Additional Everglades Trainings (8 points)
II. Integrating Everglades Literacy Curriculum	45 **	A. Everglades Literacy Teacher Toolkit Implementation (25 points)	B. Everglades Interdisciplinary Approach (10 points) + (5 pts. bonus**)	C. Field Experiences (10 points)
III. Community & Culture	30	A. Everglades Student Ambassadors (10 points)	B. Community Partnerships (10 points)	C. School Culture & Administrative Support (10 points)
IV. Everglades Extensions	10	Judges may award up to 10 points for Everglades initiatives that have gone above & beyond the scope of the other categories, or for initiatives that do not fit in neatly elsewhere.		
Total	130	(+10 If bonus points are awarded)		

I. Professional Development (45 points max.)

Documentation Required for all indicators (A., B., & C.)

I. A. Everglades Literacy Teacher Trainings (25 points max.) **See Program Requirement*

Teachers, staff, and administration use professional development provided by The Everglades Foundation to build a school's Everglades literacy capacity to ensure that all Florida students understand the importance of conserving, protecting, and restoring the Everglades.

****Program Requirement: Two teachers must have attended an Everglades Literacy Teacher Training in the last three (3) years to be eligible to participate in the Everglades Champion Schools Program.***

5 points	10 points	15 points	20 points	25 points
At least <u>15% of your teachers</u> have attended an Everglades Literacy Teacher Training within the last three years.	At least <u>30% of your teachers</u> have attended an Everglades Literacy Teacher Training within the last three years.	At least <u>45% of your teachers from multiple grade levels</u> have attended an Everglades Literacy Teacher Training within the last three years.	At least <u>60% of your teachers from multiple grade levels</u> have attended an Everglades Literacy Teacher Training within the last three years.	At least <u>85% of your teachers from multiple grade levels</u> have attended an Everglades Literacy Teacher Training within the last three years.
Bonus Points (Up to 5 points)				
<p>Bonus points will be awarded if a school is a host training site for an Everglades Literacy Teacher Training.</p> <p>Host schools are highly encouraged to invite other schools to attend.</p>				

Examples of documentation may include but are not limited to, images of training agendas, sign-in sheets, confirmation emails of participation, images that capture teacher participation, or spreadsheets of training records.

I. Professional Development (continued)

I. B. Everglades Content Knowledge Modules (12 points max.)

The modules are independent, self-paced online professional development opportunities that will increase teachers' content knowledge about various topics of the Everglades.

Access all modules from the Everglades Literacy website: <https://www.evergladesliteracy.org/content-modules>

Use Password: **contentmodules**

1-12 points	Modules offered (topics subject to change)
<p>Up to 12 teachers complete any of The Everglades Foundation's online Everglades Content Knowledge Modules available with a passing score of 60/80 (75%).</p> <p>Note: <i>Modules are only valid for the year they are completed. Modules that have been completed by teachers in previous years will not be counted again for subsequent years. To check teacher eligibility, email requests to evergladeschampion@evergladesfoundation.org</i></p>	<p>Module 1: Introduction to the Historic Everglades Watershed</p> <p>Module 2: Geology of the Everglades</p> <p>Module 3: Hydrology of the Everglades</p> <p>Module 4: Nutrient Cycling in the Everglades</p> <p>Module 5: The Ecological Communities of the Everglades</p>

Examples of documentation may include but are not limited to, confirmation emails of participation, images that capture completion with a passing score, or spreadsheets of training records.

I. Professional Development (continued)

I.C. Additional Everglades-Related Trainings (8 points max.)

Any in-person or virtual trainings, webinars, and/or conferences that focus on Everglades education for teachers, staff, and administration.

4 points	8 points
At least two (2) teachers and/or staff members in the school attend at least one additional professional development opportunity that has an Everglades connection.	At least four (4) teachers and/or staff members in the school attend at least one additional professional development opportunity that has an Everglades connection.

Examples:

- Attending other speaker series, webinars, and teacher symposiums that are hosted by The Everglades Foundation (Ex. The Annual Everglades Teacher Symposium, Families ForEverglades Speaker Series, Everglades Restoration Fights Climate Change webinars, and more!)
- Attending Everglades related webinars and/or conference sessions hosted by LEEF (League of Environmental Educators in Florida)
- Attending an Everglades National Park Teacher Workshop

Examples of documentation may include but are not limited to, images of training certificates, training agendas, confirmation emails of participation, or images that capture teacher participation.

II. Integrating Everglades Literacy into the Curriculum (50 points max.)

Documentation Required for all Indicators (A., B., & C.)

II. A. Everglades Literacy Teacher Toolkit Implementation (25 points max.) **See Program Requirement The K-12 Everglades Literacy Teacher Toolkit offers a set of three (3) lessons that are to be implemented in each grade level. These lessons introduce students to the Fundamental Concepts of Everglades Literacy that students, and all Floridians, should understand. Learn more about the concepts on our [website](#).*

Access the K-12 Everglades Literacy Teacher Toolkit at <https://www.evergladesliteracy.org/teacher-tool-kit>

***Program Requirement: Schools must reach a 5-point minimum to be eligible for the ECS Program.**

*5 points	10 points	15 points	20 points	25 points
At least 20% of the students in your school have participated in the complete set of the three grade-specific lessons from the Everglades Literacy Teacher Toolkit.	At least 40% of the students in your school have participated in the complete set of the three grade-specific lessons from the Everglades Literacy Teacher Toolkit.	At least 60% of the students in your school have participated in the complete set of the three grade-specific lessons from the Everglades Literacy Teacher Toolkit.	At least 80% of the students in your school have participated in the complete set of the three grade-specific lessons from the Everglades Literacy Teacher Toolkit.	At least 95% of the students in your school have participated in the complete set of the three grade-specific lessons from the Everglades Literacy Teacher Toolkit.
Note: Teachers who are not Everglades Literacy trained may still implement Everglades Literacy Teacher Toolkit lessons.				

Examples of documentation may include but are not limited to, images of sample student work, images of virtual teaching of identified lesson(s), screenshots of teacher lesson plan book, or images that capture student engagement.

II. Integrating Everglades Literacy into the Curriculum

II. B. Everglades Interdisciplinary Approach (10 points max.)

Schools integrate Everglades themed interdisciplinary lessons beyond the grade-specific Teacher Toolkit and/or Everglades projects that are implemented across two or more disciplines. Note: Any EL Teacher Toolkit lessons that are adapted from another grade level AND are interdisciplinary may be applied here.

4 points	6 points	8 points	10 points
At least 20% of the students have conducted at least one (1) Everglades themed interdisciplinary lesson or project.	At least 40% of the students have conducted at least one (1) Everglades themed interdisciplinary lesson or project.	At least 60% of the students have conducted at least one (1) Everglades themed interdisciplinary lesson or project.	At least 80% of the students have conducted at least one (1) Everglades themed interdisciplinary lesson or project.
1-5 Bonus Points			
<p>Bonus points will be awarded based on the <u>complexity and depth of the project</u>. Judges will be looking for projects that apply interdisciplinary problem – based learning that has students identify, research, design, and develop ways to address complex, real-world problems, or issues through an extended Everglades project.</p>			

Example of Interdisciplinary Project:

- As a Teacher Toolkit lesson extension to **Grade 2 – Lesson 2, Everglades Seasons**, students design and build their own alligator hole that can be a true-to-size alligator hole with props, a smaller version using paper mache, and/or through a digital platform. Students measure components of the alligator hole (i.e. length of an alligator, distance between objects).
 - Disciplines used: Science, Art, Math, Technology
- Other ideas may include STEM lessons, teacher created project-based learning activities, etc.

Visit our website to see [additional instructional resources](#).

Examples of documentation may include but are not limited to, images of sample student work, images that capture teacher instruction or student engagement, or screenshots of teacher lesson plan(s).

II. Integrating Everglades Literacy into the Curriculum

II. C. Field Experiences (10 points max.)

Students learn about their local natural environments through guided first-hand observations and/or investigation that allows students to collect data. All experiences must have an Everglades connection.

4 points	6 points	8 points	10 points
At least 20% of the students have participated in one (1) guided first-hand experience and collected data in a local natural environment that has an Everglades connection.	At least 40% of the students have participated in one (1) guided first-hand experience and collected data in a local natural environment that has an Everglades connection.	At least 60% of the students have participated in one (1) guided first-hand experience and collected data in a local natural environment that has an Everglades connection.	At least 80% of the students have participated in one (1) guided first-hand experience and collected data in a local natural environment that has an Everglades connection.
If schools are <u>not permitted</u> to provide a direct interaction with their local environment, virtual Everglades based field observations and/or investigations that collect data are applicable.			

Note: Field experiences are outdoor experiences (in the “field”). Schools are encouraged to visit local nature centers, natural areas, State & County parks, etc. that have an Everglades connection. Field experiences may also occur on or near campus.

Examples of Field Experiences:

- Conduct and compare data from [water quality testing](#) at different locations.
- Pair an [Interactive 360-degree habitat video](#) with a field guide and the provided [student field datasheet](#) to conduct a virtual field experience. *Additional virtual field studies are available on our website.*
- Students conduct bird counts or other plant/wildlife surveys on or off school grounds and then classify if the species are native or non-native species of the Everglades.

Examples of documentation may include but are not limited to, images of sample student work, images that capture student engagement, screenshots of a field program agenda, or a field trip letter of site confirmation.

III. Everglades Community & Culture (30 points max.)

Documentation Required for all Indicators (A., B., & C.)

III. A. Everglades Student Ambassadors (10 points max.)

Students serve to educate others about the Everglades and protect the ecosystem through action. Students model and practice successful collaboration, partnership, and leadership skills to advance Everglades-related initiatives.

Download [Everglades Student Ambassadors' Guide](#) and [Everglades Pledge](#) here or from our website.

4 points	6 points	8 points	10 points
<p>Student Ambassadors are established and Everglades activities are integrated into a new or existing student club(s) or organization(s).</p> <p>Students sign the Everglades Pledge from the <i>EF Student Ambassadors' Guide</i>.</p>	<p>Student Ambassadors teach other students from different classes/grade levels about the Everglades (students teaching students).</p> <p>Students sign the Everglades Pledge from the <i>EF Student Ambassadors' Guide</i>.</p>	<p>Student Ambassadors lead a school-wide project to promote Everglades-related initiatives (students leading school).</p> <p>Students sign the Everglades Pledge and use components of the EF Student Ambassadors' Guide to guide meetings and plan initiatives.</p>	<p>Student Ambassadors plan and coordinate with adult decision-makers to implement a community event that promotes Everglades literacy (<u>students leading the greater community</u>).</p> <p>Students sign the Everglades Pledge and implement steps from the Student Ambassadors' Guide in meetings.</p>

Examples:

- **Students teaching students:** 5th graders teaching 2nd graders about an endangered species found in the Everglades through an extended research project/poster presentation.
- **Students leading school:** Student ambassadors organize a school-wide campaign via morning announcements to raise awareness of the [ecosystem services](#) that the Everglades provides to people such as filtering pollutants out of the water.
- **Students leading the greater community:** Student ambassadors plan and coordinate with PTO, a River of Grass community festival to celebrate the birthday of Marjory Stoneman Douglas (April 7th). April 7th is officially designated as Everglades Day.

III. Everglades Community & Culture

III. B. Community Partnerships (10 points max.)

School works with the community at large to teach the importance of Everglades literacy through community and/or service-learning activities/projects that directly benefit the wider community. Partners are businesses or organizations that provide services and/or resources to the school.

2 points	4 points	6 points	10 points
Community involvement consists of 1-2 guest speakers that provide Everglades related education to the students and/or within the school community (e.g., parents/families).	Schools work with one community partner to conduct Everglades community and/or service-learning activities at least once or twice a year .	Schools work with two community partners to conduct Everglades community and/or service-learning activities throughout the year (more than twice) .	Schools work with two-three community partners to conduct Everglades community and/or service-learning activities throughout the year on a regular on-going basis (monthly, weekly, etc.) .
If necessary, virtual connections with community partners to conduct Everglades related education, and Everglades community and/or service-learning activities are permitted (i.e., virtual guest speakers).			

Definitions and examples of “Environmental Community-Service” and “Environmental Service-Learning”:

- **Environmental community-service:** Environmentally focused projects and activities that engage students in addressing the needs of their community, but do not necessarily include a learning component.
 - *Example: Students collecting trash from a local Everglades habitat.*
- **Environmental service-learning:** Environmentally focused projects that involve students in identifying, researching, and implementing solutions to real needs in their community as part of their Everglades learning and/or curriculum goals.
 - *Example: Students will research local threatened or endangered bird species and work with a local environmental group to build and monitor nest boxes to support their population.*

III. Everglades Community & Culture

III. C. School Culture & Administrative Support (10 points max.)

Everglades literacy projects and practices are systematically included as components of school planning, administrative policy, and overall school community & culture. An Everglades Champion School (ECS) team is established to lead these efforts.

2 points	4 points	6 points	10 points
<p>An Everglades Champion School (ECS) team includes at least two (2) teachers and meets twice a year to discuss Everglades literacy initiatives.</p> <p>The ECS two lead teachers attend an Everglades Literacy Teacher Training within the last 3 years.</p> <p>School's efforts to be an Everglades Champion School are shared with an administrator.</p>	<p>The Everglades Champion School (ECS) team includes at least two (2) teachers and one (1) administrator that meet periodically (3-4 times) throughout the year to develop and implement Everglades literacy initiatives.</p> <p>Multiple teachers attend an Everglades Literacy Teacher Training within the last 3 years.</p> <p>School's efforts to be an Everglades Champion School are shared within the school body.</p>	<p>The Everglades Champion School (ECS) team includes at least four (4) teachers across multiple grade levels and one (1) administrator that meet on a regular basis (monthly, weekly, etc.) throughout the year to develop and implement Everglades literacy initiatives.</p> <p>Teachers and staff attend an Everglades Literacy Teacher Training within the last 3 years.</p> <p>School's efforts to be an Everglades Champion School are shared with families and visitors as well as the school body.</p>	<p>The ECS team represents a diverse whole-school community: teachers, students, administrators, staff, parents, and community reps that meet on a regular basis (monthly, weekly, etc.) to ensure that Everglades literacy is a part of the school's culture, that may be illustrated by school-wide projects, community events, newsletters, social media posts, school website, and/or in school policies.</p> <p>Faculty, administrator(s) and parents attend an Everglades Literacy Teacher Training within the last 3 years.</p> <p>School's efforts to be an ECS is shared with other schools and the wider community.</p>

Examples of documentation may include but are not limited to, meeting sign-in sheets, agendas, minutes, emails, screenshots, website links, campus signage, or excerpts from official school planning documents.

IV. Everglades Extensions: Above and Beyond (10 points max.)

Up to ten bonus points are awarded for Everglades-related initiatives that go “above and beyond” the scope of the other categories, or for Everglades initiatives that do not fit in neatly elsewhere. This is your chance to be creative!

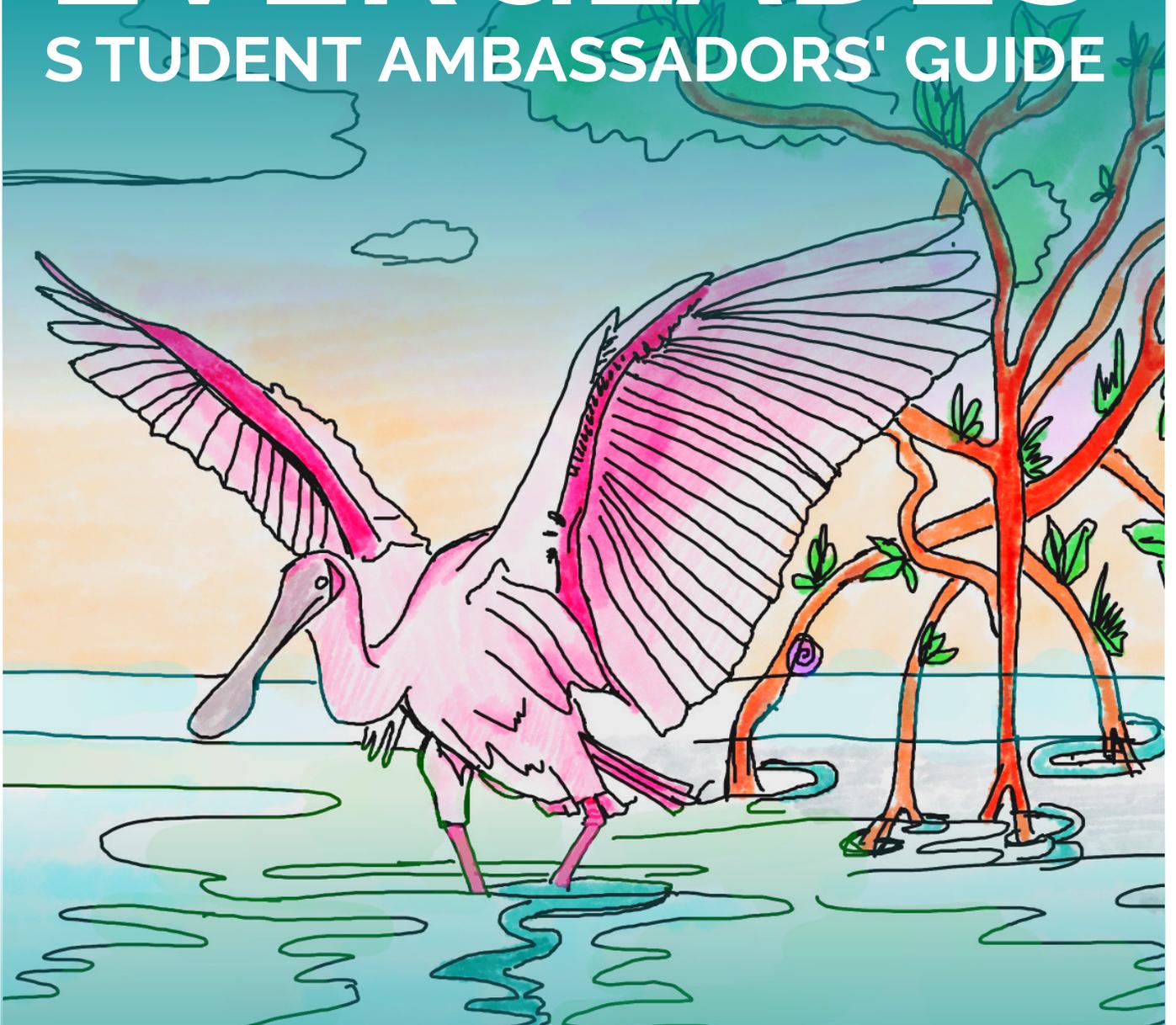
Examples:

- Additional Interdisciplinary Projects or Field Experiences that have not been included in Indicators II. B. or C.
- Additional teachers that successfully complete online modules that have not been already included in Indicator I.B.
- PTO members attend Everglades Literacy Teacher Trainings
- Fundraising initiatives to support Everglades-focused field trips and/or projects
- Everglades-focused Science Fair Projects
- Student presentations at public events. E.g., Everglades Day; Broward County for Water Matters Day; District Science Fair; or other county-wide water/environmental initiatives
- Starting an Everglades book club or book share (for students, teachers and/or parents)
- Integrating your Everglades initiatives as part of county, state, or national Green Schools program
- Schools have mentored other participating Everglades Champion Schools
- **AND MORE! THE SKY’S THE LIMIT!**

LEVELS OF RECOGNITION			
BRONZE CHAMPION		GOLD CHAMPION	
		SILVER CHAMPION	

EVERGLADES

STUDENT AMBASSADORS' GUIDE



For our Champion Schools





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INTRODUCTION

A Message to Teachers

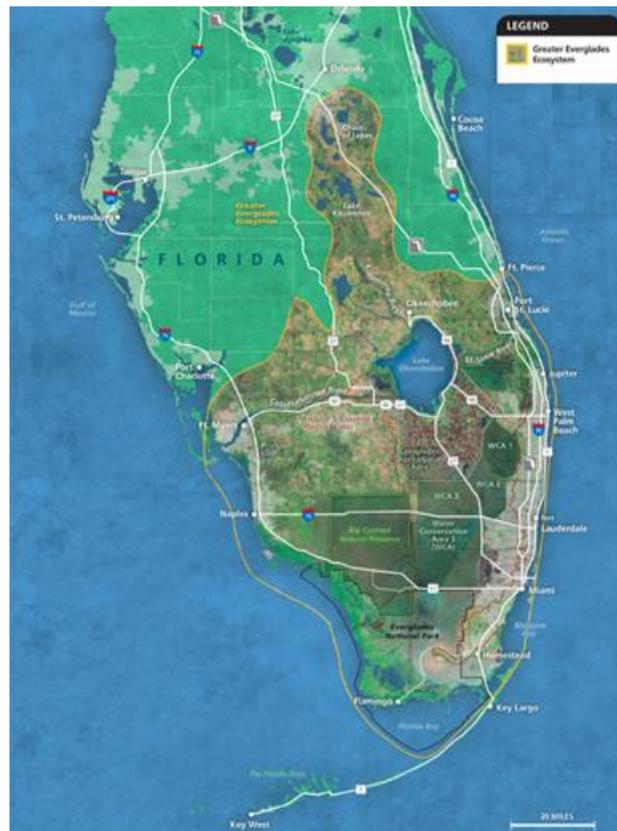
This Student Ambassadors' Guide is a set of guidelines designed to support educators as they establish Everglades Student Ambassadors at their school. The guidelines can be referenced both by teachers and students.

The Everglades Foundation

The Everglades Foundation is an environmental non-profit organization that works to protect and restore America's Everglades through science, advocacy, and education.

Why is the Everglades Important?

The Everglades is a natural region in Florida containing many different types of habitats, plants, and animals. The Everglades is home to thousands of different plant and animal species and provides freshwater to over 8.7 million people. This freshwater is not only used for drinking, but for industries such as tourism, real estate, agriculture, and more.



The 7 Fundamental Concepts of the Everglades

There is only one Everglades in the world and it is our backyard.

The [Everglades Literacy Conceptual Framework](#) lists the 7 concepts that explain the importance of the Everglades:

- **Concept 1:** The Everglades is Unique and Valuable
- **Concept 2:** The Everglades is Defined and Connected by Water
- **Concept 3:** The Everglades is Shaped by Southern Florida's Geology and Geography
- **Concept 4:** The Everglades Influences and Is Influenced by Weather and Climate
- **Concept 5:** The Everglades Supports and Is Connected by a Great Diversity of Life and Ecosystems
- **Concept 6:** The Everglades Has Experienced Many Changes Over Time and Is Endangered
- **Concept 7:** The Everglades and People Are Inextricably Interconnected

By learning about the Everglades, there are opportunities to educate others and make the best decisions to help protect and restore the environment. You will have opportunities to learn more about each of these concepts through teamwork, project planning, and communicating with others.

What is an Everglades Champion School?

The Everglades Champion Schools Program is designed to showcase and recognize schools in Florida that demonstrate exceptional Everglades literacy efforts and initiatives in our schools. The goal of the program is to engage and empower a school's community to become stewards of the River of Grass. The program includes participation from teachers, students, administrators, community partners, parents, and others.

An Everglades Champion School is filled with individuals who are passionate about learning about the Everglades and conserving it. Your school can become an Everglades Champion School by completing an application and documenting how your school addresses different categories and indicators from the Champion Schools Evaluation Criteria. You may earn points by integrating Everglades education into the classroom through lesson plans, projects, and field experiences, and developing a culture of Everglades stewardship within the community.

EVERGLADES STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Description and Purpose of a Student Ambassador

Student Ambassadors are the voice of the Everglades in their schools, homes, and communities. The purpose of a student ambassador for the Everglades is to educate others about the Everglades and protect the ecosystem through everyday decisions and lifelong commitment. Ambassadors work both individually and together to produce a positive change in attitude and protection of the environment.

Student Ambassadors for the Everglades can be a part of a new or existing organization. A school may already have an existing environmental club, garden club, or something similar where it is appropriate to discuss Everglades education and initiatives. A new club can also be organized to specifically address Everglades education and initiatives.

Student Ambassador Skills

Student Ambassadors will exhibit skills such as:

- Brainstorming
- Planning
- Organization
- Dedication
- Good communication
- Collaboration
- Creativity
- Teamwork

Student Ambassador Goals

These overarching goals help guide Student Ambassadors to educate others about the Everglades and protect the ecosystem through everyday decisions and lifelong commitment. Your Student Ambassadors may develop additional goals.

- **Goal 1:** Students will understand why it is important to preserve and protect the Everglades.
- **Goal 2:** Students will explain why it is important to educate others about the Everglades.
- **Goal 3:** Students will generate ideas and develop an action plan for sharing Everglades projects and initiatives.
- **Goal 4:** Students will implement and share their action plan with an authentic audience.

STEP 1: LEARN ABOUT THE EVERGLADES

Student Ambassadors are to gain knowledge by researching more information about various Everglades topics. Building background knowledge on specific Everglades topics empowers students to make better informed decisions and create opportunities to share what they have learned with an authentic audience. Knowledge=Power!

Everglades Resources

Learning about the Everglades can happen at school, at home, visiting the Everglades ecosystem, and by talking to friends and family about the ecosystem. This includes watching informative videos, learning in the classroom, doing activities at home, and more.

- The Everglades Foundation's Everglades Literacy Program - <https://www.evergladesliteracy.org>
- Everglades Rangers Youtube Channel - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC24LhjbqdJFORftuHXGk8Hg>
- Everglades National Park Youtube Channel - <https://www.youtube.com/user/EvergladesNPS>
- Odyssey Earth - The Everglades: River of Grass - <http://www.odysseyearth.com/videos/the-everglades-river-of-grass/>
- Odyssey Earth - Odyssey Everglades (multiple videos) - <http://www.odysseyearth.com/video-category/odyssey-everglades/>

Other Everglades Topics To Explore

Protecting and restoring the Everglades focuses on the following topics:

- Water quality (drinking water, accessibility, pollution)
- Water quantity
- Habitats - Hardwood Hammock, Pinelands, Mangrove Swamp, Cypress Swamp, Sawgrass Marsh
- Native species of the Everglades - American alligator, Florida panther, West Indian manatee, Roseate spoonbill, Great Blue Heron, and more!
- Endangered or threatened species of Florida
- Everglades threats: habitat loss, invasive species, polluted water, etc.
- And more!

STEP 2: TAKE THE EVERGLADES PLEDGE

It is ideal to have your Student Ambassadors understand the importance of a pledge, and use it to reflect on throughout the year. Student Ambassadors are agreeing to being an active voice of the Everglades. Signing the pledge is a great way to start off a student ambassador meeting. It is encouraged to provide students with opportunities to share their commitment with teachers, family, and friends.

[Download the Everglades Pledge here](#)

EVERGLADES STUDENT AMBASSADOR PLEDGE

Be an Everglades Student Ambassador and take the pledge to protect the Everglades, all of the life that lives in it, and the water that flows through it! Everglades conservation is something that can be done at home, school, and with the community.

The Everglades is a special, unique ecosystem home to thousands of plant and animal species, while providing the drinking water supply for nearly 9 million Floridians. The Everglades is a treasure that belongs to all Americans and to the world.

I/we understand that learning about the Everglades will help to make better informed decisions, reduce negative environmental impacts, and protect this unique ecosystem.

In order to do my/our part, there are many actions I/we can take to save the Everglades. With help from my teachers, family, and friends, I/we pledge to:

- o Learn about the Everglades and educate others
- o Make daily efforts to conserve water through my actions
- o Make a positive environmental impact through informed decisions
- o Explore the Everglades through outdoor and virtual experiences
- o Other ideas: _____

By signing below, I/we pledge to be an Everglades Student Ambassador.

Share this pledge with others to display your commitment to being an Everglades Student Ambassador!



#EvergladesLiteracy
@evergladesfoundation
@evergladesfoundation



STEP 3: TAKE ACTION

Taking an action is a way that Student Ambassadors can be given the hands-on opportunity to model and practice successful collaboration, and leadership skills to advance Everglades education. The audience to which they may reach may be within the organization itself, reaching out to other students, leading their whole school, or even within the greater community.

Action Plan Components

Student will address the following 5 core components of the action plan to achieve their goals:

1. Explore
2. Plan
3. Action
4. Reflect
5. Celebrate

Developing the Action Plan

An action plan is a checklist for the steps or tasks you need to complete in order to achieve the goals you have set. We encourage you to use the Action Plan template provided below. Student Ambassadors should take the following questions into consideration when developing their action plan:

- What is the overall purpose of this action?
- What impacts do you hope it will have on students, school, and/or community?

[Download the full Action Plan template here](#)

Everglades Action Plan

Use this Action Plan as a checklist for the steps or tasks you need to complete in order to achieve the goals you have set. Don't forget to document and track your progress!



Everglades Project Title:



Group Name (Have all student ambassadors working on this project list their full names and grade level on the back of this form):



Identify the Everglades topic of focus:



Explain why it is important to educate others about this Everglades topic:



Who is your target audience? (Who will be reached? Who will benefit from this?)



Implement your Action Plan. What is the overall purpose of this action? What impacts do you hope it will have on students, school, and/or community? Use this section to write notes as you proceed.



How will you implement your plan? List step by step.

*If you need more space, attach your steps to this form.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



List of Materials Needed (Include how many of each. Make sure you discuss how you may gather these materials. Are they easily accessible? Are they eco-friendly?)



What is the expected timeframe for this action plan to be completed?



Other than your group members, who else is contributing to the success of your action plan? (Principal, community partners, parents, etc.)



How will you measure the results to determine if your action plan was effective?



Reflection Questions:

What was successful about your project or goal? What were the strengths?

What are areas of improvement in your action plan, goal, or project?

What would you have done differently?

Teacher Approval Signature: _____

Comments:

Student Ambassador Action Examples

Explore the Everglades action examples below for ideas that may inspire Student Ambassadors as they establish and help build a sense of Everglades community and culture throughout the school year. Student Ambassadors are not limited by the number of actions implemented at their school.

1. Make educational videos about the Everglades and share with your school and/or community.
2. Share Everglades information with students during school announcements on a recurring basis (daily, weekly, etc.)
3. Creating a specific project or communication piece to celebrate Everglades Day (April 7) for your school and/or community.
4. Create a designated anthem or song about the Everglades for your club and/or school. Share it with others!
5. Create an outdoor garden or an indoor plant propagation station at your school/community that has a connection to the Everglades. Ex: Garden includes many varieties of Everglades native trees and plants to attract Everglades native animals and insects. Communicate with the rest of the school and/or community why planting natives instead of non-natives is important to conserving the Everglades.
6. Create an Everglades art wall mural project in your school and/or community. Provide information/facts about the Everglades in the art mural if possible.
7. Connect with a community partner to develop a fundraising opportunity that benefits an Everglades related initiative or organization.
8. Create Everglades habitat for Everglades wildlife in your school and/or community. Monitor the habitat's amount of biodiversity over time.
9. Have higher grade level students work with younger students to learn about the Everglades.
10. Create an Everglades themed skit or play and perform it for your school and/or community.
11. Invite your congresspeople or any governmental officials to visit the school and prepare questions to ask them in regards to what they are doing to address protecting the Everglades and threats such as habitat loss, invasive species, or climate change.
12. Make poems about the Everglades and read them aloud and showcase them around your school and/or community.
13. Create an Everglades themed obstacle course for your school and/or community. Have prizes and educational/communicative components.
14. Organize an Everglades book club with other students and teachers in your school and/or community.
15. Create an Everglades themed newsletter to go out to your school and/or community.

Action Plan Reflection

Student Ambassadors play an important role in giving the Everglades a voice in their school and their community. Think of how your actions have helped and made a positive impact on the environment. Reflect and discuss what the implemented action plan at your school means and how it connects to the environment, fellow students, and the school.

Consider the following reflection questions:

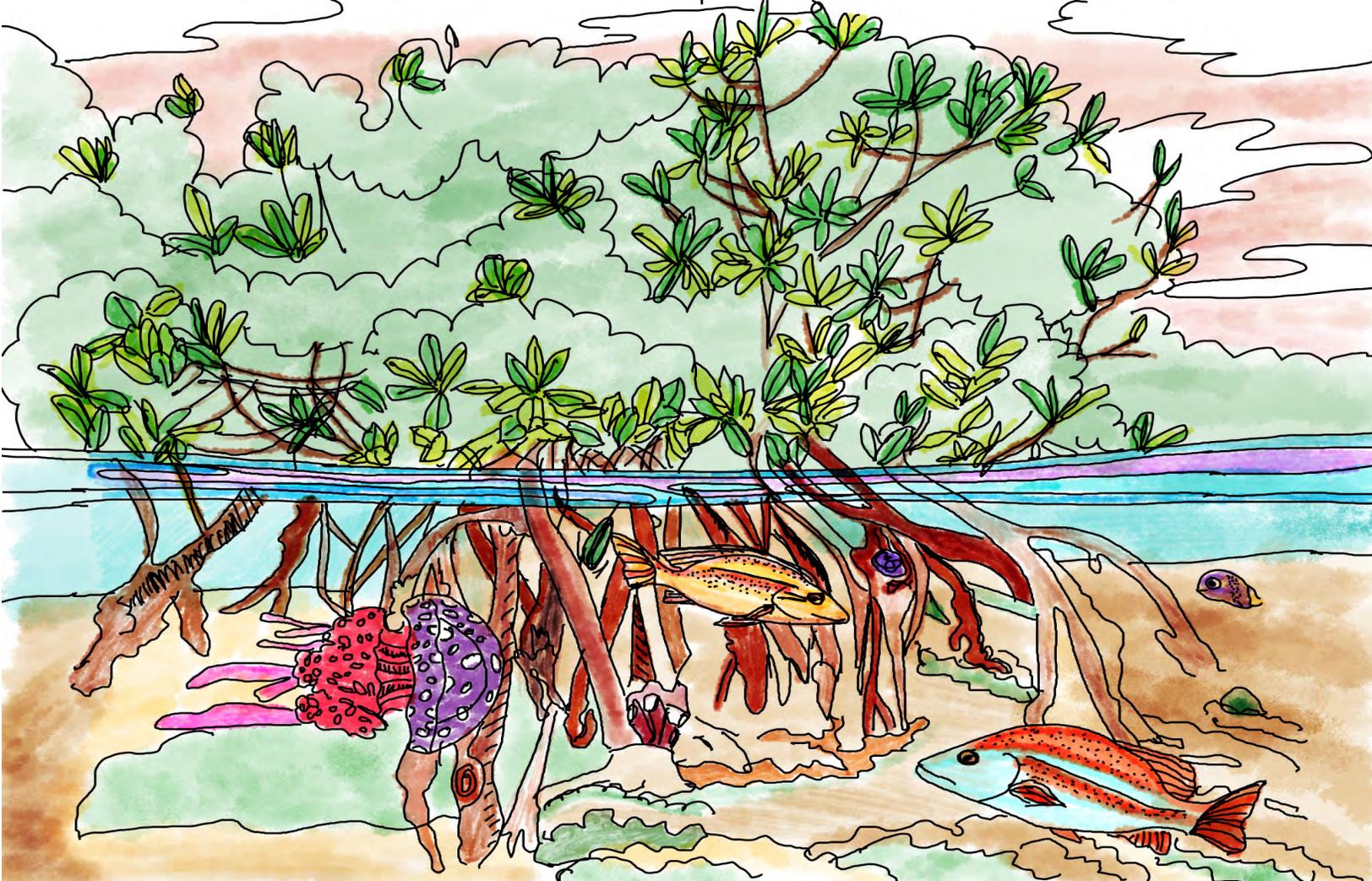
- What was successful about your project or goal? What were the strengths?
- What are areas of improvement in your action plan, goal, or project?
- What would you have done differently?
- How can Student Ambassadors share this action plan further?
- Can you take additional actions to teach others in your school, community, family, and friend group?

Celebrate Your Successes

After reflecting, it's time to celebrate! Student Ambassadors are encouraged to share what they have learned from the process of developing and implementing an Everglades action plan with their school community. Don't forget to take pictures of your actions and include your successes in your Everglades Champion Schools Application.

The Everglades Foundation's Education team thanks each and every Everglades Student Ambassador and their leaders for their efforts to engage and empower their school's community to become stewards of the River of Grass.

Please contact evergladeschampion@evergladesfoundation.org with any questions or comments.



Thank You!

From The Everglades Foundation's Education Team



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