



Youth Climate *Project*



Encouraging the Environmental Leaders of the Next Generation

"In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught."

BABA DIOUM 1968

THE PROJECT

Climate change is real and it is happening now. Turning to science gives us the knowledge we need to understand why climate change is occurring, how it is transforming the environment, and what can be done to alter the domino effect. The Youth Climate Project (YCP) challenges high school juniors and seniors to get involved and learn about the role climate change is projected to play in Florida's future and consider innovative ways we can begin to resolve its effects.



THE PROCESS

A couple of key things to remember as we go through the process: Planning for climate change is no easy task and at times can seem overwhelming, but you are not alone. Talk with your mentor, your peers, your parents / guardians, be open to other points of view. Do not be afraid to ask questions or receive feedback.

Are you ready to take on the challenge? Here are your next steps:

- Read through the YCP Information Booklet
- Speak to your science teacher and parents/guardian about the project, they will be an important part of the process
- Complete the YCP ***Intent to Participate*** form on YouthClimateProject.org
- Begin your research
- Mid-point check-in with YCP
- Create your presentation video and submit by deadline (***March 11, 2024*** remember, no late submissions will be accepted)
- Celebrate your work at the YCP gathering



THE PROMISE



The primary goal of the Youth Climate Project is to empower youth to engage in the climate conversation and provide them the tools to impact change in their communities. In order to do this, we ask that all student participants adhere to the following agreements.

- I commit to respecting each person that assist me in this project and those who lead me. Respect involves listening when others are talking, providing evidence to back my statements, being on time, being open to possibility and new experiences, and respecting views different than my own. In this space, I commit to being open to other perspectives.
- I commit to respecting and honoring nature by protecting the environment around me, never taking more than I need, and working always to give back what I receive.
- I commit to taking the lessons learned from this unique opportunity to make a positive difference in my community and world.
- Above all, I commit to respecting myself. I will do this through active engagement in learning and positive dialogue, so that I may constantly strive to be the best version of myself.



THE PROBLEM

The first step you must take for the Youth Climate Project is to learn more about the challenge or theme you are looking to study. Once you have done some research identify 2-3 activities or steps that could be taken to address the climate challenge. Speak with your mentor, friends, and others, they would love to assist.

Agriculture
Water
Oceans
Everglades
Fauna **Health** **Flora**
Resources **Acidification**

Climate Change affecting State and Local Florida Communities/Florida EPA

- Sea level rise – if the oceans and atmosphere continue to warm, sea levels are likely to continue to rise on the Gulf and Atlantic coasts of Florida.
- Effects on flora and fauna – the effects of climate change can displace Florida native plants and animals causing them to adapt or relocate to survive.
- Everglades – as competing demands for water increases and the threat of salt water flowing further inland with sea level rise, maintaining the natural flow of water in the Everglades may become more difficult having long-term effects.
- Water resources – the changing climate can increase the need for water while the amount of available water is unlikely to increase and may even decrease.
- Coral reef and ocean acidification – coral bleaching and ocean acidity could harm Florida's marine ecosystems, fisheries, and tourism.
- Agriculture – climate change will affect how food is produced in Florida bringing changes to the growing seasons and how livestock is cared for.
- Human health – higher temperatures and increased ground-level ozone creates a unhealthy living environment for humans.
- Storms – as climate change continues to warm, hurricane winds and rainfall rates are likely to increase creating problems for Florida infrastructure, homes, and the economy.
- Microorganisms in Florida's Oceans and Coastal Waters - an increase in the temperature of nearshore ocean water could lead to an increased growth of microorganisms including algae that forms noxious or toxic blooms, including red tides.

Feel free to use the space provided to record your thoughts, and remember when you brainstorm - all ideas are worth looking into.



THE PRESENTATION

It is time to consider how you will share the information that you have learned. There are many ways to connect to the community through video. Will you create a documentary style video, animation, story telling? The choice is yours!

Judging Rubric

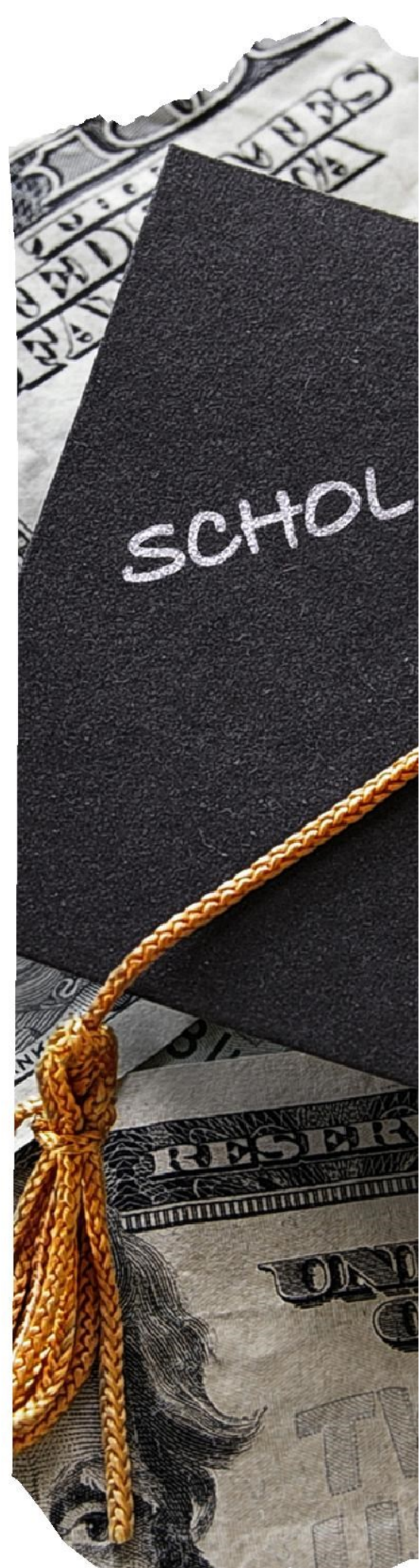
Judging Criteria	4 Outstanding	3 Very Good	2 Good	1 Needs Work	0 Not Evident
Scientific Processes					
Clearly stated problem and conclusion					
Evidence of relevant research					
Sufficient data to support the conclusion					
Analysis & interpretation of data					
Accurate information/proper references					
Creative solution					
Presentation					
Personal voice expressing the issue					
Clear logical discussion of solution					
Originality of ideas/approach					
Presented in a creative manner					
Resources/Community Outreach					
Evidence of collaboration with scientific community (university, industry, specialist)					
Plans for future research/action included					
Ideas for community outreach to get citizens onboard					
CATEGORY POINTS					
TOTAL POINTS:					



THE PRIZE

The Youth Climate Project is excited to announce \$20,000 is available to be awarded for scholarships. Participants who receive high scores on their research could receive between \$1,000 - \$5,000.

All participants are encouraged to review and have a good understanding of the point system set-up for judging as they prepare their research video.



Amon Family Foundation, Inc.

The Amon Family Fund Inc (AFFI) was founded in May 2021 by Jack Amon, former resident of west Orange county. As a farmer, community activist, and participant in environmental efforts in Central Florida, Jack 's goal was to establish a sustainable vehicle to encourage and support environmental and educational opportunities for young people focused on environmental challenges of the 21st century.

The operation of the Fund is assisted on the Board of Directors by two of his children, Jennifer Triggs and Jonathan Fritz, and guided locally by the accounting firm of Derek Blakeslee.

Oakland Nature Preserve

West of Orlando, just 30 minutes from the attractions and nestled between Winter Garden and Clermont in the beautiful Town of Oakland, lies a "hidden gem." A 150-acre preserve offering environmental education and ecotourism activities for visitors of all ages.

www.OaklandNaturePreserve.org



OAKLAND NATURE
P R E S E R V E