



Fairchild Challenge at Phipps 2020 – 2021 Program Policies

COVID-19 Challenge Adjustments

- Because schools are approaching learning and teaching in different ways (remote synchronous, remote asynchronous, hybrid etc.), this year's Phipps Fairchild Challenge will not be scored. We didn't think that we could fairly compare entries while schools and districts are structured and resourced so differently during this pandemic.
- With the exception of the Patti Burns Prize for Excellence in Environmental Communication, monetary prizes will not be awarded at the end of the year since the overall challenge will not be scored.
- In lieu of judging panels, community panels will review student entries to offer feedback on and recognition of students' work.
- Entries will primarily be accepted digitally. Please refer to each challenge description for complete submission instructions and options.
- If you are submitting a physical entry, please make arrangements in advance with the Phipps Fairchild Challenge program coordinator.
- The digital format of this year's challenge provides an opportunity for more students to take part in the Phipps Fairchild Challenge. Schools should encourage as many students as possible to participate.
- To retrieve any student entries that were submitted physically last year, please make arrangements with the Phipps Fairchild Challenge program coordinator.

School Registration Requirements

- Each school must complete an online registration form providing contact information for teachers interested in participating.
- Each school must receive approval from a school administrator to participate in the Phipps Fairchild Challenge.
- Enrollment is **free** and on-going throughout the school year.

Challenge Entries and Deadlines

- Each registered school must complete a Challenge Entry Form for each challenge they compete in, not for each individual student entry.
- Each challenge entry (student project) must be clearly marked with the school's and students' names.
- Entries must follow the guidelines or they may be disqualified.
- Entries will primarily be accepted digitally. Please refer to each challenge description for complete submission instructions and options.
- In the case that a physical entry is being submitted, projects should be mailed to Phipps Conservatory* or dropped off at our offices (in the Center for Sustainable Landscapes (CSL) directly behind Phipps Conservatory). ***If you are submitting a physical entry,***

please make arrangements in advance with the Phipps Fairchild Challenge program coordinator.

** Mailed entries should be addressed to:*

Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens
The Fairchild Challenge c/o Emily Johns
One Schenley Park
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

- Entries are considered on time if received **on or prior to** the entry deadline.
- Schools should encourage as many students as possible to participate in each challenge.

Student Work

- All work submitted must be completed by students only.
- Participants are expected to follow a strict honor code: All work must be original or quoted from a referenced source.
- Plagiarism will result in disqualification of all work submitted by the students involved.
- Teachers and parents are encouraged to support student participation, but all entries must be entirely student work.
- Entries may not contain, as determined by Phipps, in its sole discretion, any content that is sexually explicit or suggestive, violent, derogatory, obscene, offensive, profane or pornographic; promotes alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco, firearms or other weapons; promotes any activities that may appear unsafe or dangerous; promotes any particular political or religious agenda or message; overtly endorses any religious or political message or group; defames, misrepresents or contains disparaging remarks about other people or companies; contains trademarks, logos, or other copyrighted materials owned by others; contains any personal identification, such as license plate numbers, email addresses or street addresses; communicates messages or images inconsistent with the positive images and/or good will to which we wish to associate; and/or violates any law.

Entry Judging and Scoring

- In lieu of judging panels, community panels will review student entries to offer feedback on and recognition of students' work.
- The Patti Burns Bonus Challenge will be the only challenge to be judged and considered for the Patti Burns Award for Excellence in Environmental Communication.
 - The panel of judges is selected by Phipps Conservatory. Judges will be selected from the community, Phipps Conservatory volunteers and staff, and other professionals in the Pittsburgh area.
 - Panelists judge student entries based on the criteria set for the challenge and by using the evaluation rubric provided with the challenge.
 - All results are final and score sheets will not be shared.

Awards

- All schools that participate in the Fairchild Challenge will receive recognition.
- Middle Schools and High Schools that participate in four or more challenges will receive the Fairchild Challenge Award.

- With the exception of the Patti Burns Prize for Excellence in Environmental Communication, monetary prizes will not be awarded at the end of the year as the challenge will not be scored.
- The top placing schools in the Patti Burns Bonus Challenge will receive monetary awards to support their environmental science education programs or green initiatives.

Consent

- Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens is not responsible for any materials that are lost, stolen, or damaged.
- To retrieve any student entries that were submitted physically last year, please make arrangements with the Phipps Fairchild Challenge program coordinator.
- Phipps Conservatory will not return unclaimed entries; these entries become property of Phipps and will be used for samples of student work or discarded.
- Photos may be taken at a Fairchild Challenge event or school visit. If a participating student wishes for his or her photo not to be used by Phipps Conservatory, a written request must be sent.
- Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens reserves the right to use any submitted materials for its own promotional purpose. If you wish to exclude your entries from these conditions, you must submit a written request with your entry forms.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact High School Program Coordinator Emily Johns at ejohns@phipps.conservatory.org.