



Alamo Resource Conservation & Development Area Inc.

Youth4-Earth FIRST Program

(FIRST~~A **Future** with environmental **Integrity** through **Research, Science and Technology)**

Mission: To engage young people, as active citizens, in student led projects that improve the environment, provide academic enrichment and assist their communities.

Vision:

To provide a future where every individual becomes a lifelong environmental steward who will play a positive role in building and maintaining environmentally resilient communities.

Implementation:

The students will

- Choose a project that reflects a local environmental need and strive to implement that project within a selected time period (example: Three to six months) so that need is impacted positively. Student projects will help to solve a problem in their own communities dealing with the environment (paper drives, trash pic-ups, water conservation projects, land conservation projects, agricultural projects etc.),
- Integrate academic enrichment components and/or activities within their projects in Science, Math, Art, Environmental Science, Agriculture, and Technology, as they also practice leadership, public speaking and presentation skills and social responsibility.
- Report and communicate their project through with Alamo RCD via email. Student should be able to submit photos, videos etc. to demonstrate their success.
- Use email communication to share and communicate project needs, successes and means of implementations
- **Acquire a main Sponsor, Volunteers and Matching Funding** from their local communities to help implement and fund their project (in monetary donations or in-kind goods to a minimum of \$200 in value) in the name of Alamo RCD Area Inc.
- Have adult supervisors at a ratio of at least one for every five youth involved.
- Become a member of Alamo RCD Youth4-Earth FIRST with an annual membership fee (whole families can join also) and encourage others to do the same.
- Complete an Alamo RCD "project proposal" that provides information on the proposed project, mission, objectives, activities, budget, impact etc. (ie a mini grant proposal) to receive Alamo RCDs support.
- Provide intermittent progress reports online (via email) of project progress.
- Complete a final project report on impact and success of their project.
- Attend an Awards Ceremony (like our current Harvest Celebrations) for recognition on their successful project.

Alamo RCD will:

- Provide \$200 toward the materials needed to complete the project. (The student must at least match this funding through in-kind or monetary donations from the community in the name of Alamo RCD but may have to raise more depending on the scope of the project selected.)
- Train and assist the main adult sponsor/supervisor that will work with the student in all planning and implementation of the project. The sponsor/supervisor is NOT to do the project for the student, but is to act as advisor, mentor and consultant in support of the student.
- Provide learning and research materials and "best practice" information for the student's project.
- Provide an Award of Recognition and a Community Service Letter for the student indicating hours of service,
- Maintain constant communications, meetings etc with the Sponsor, the student and parents, so as to coordinate the project and facilitate implementation.