



Project Summary Form

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Please complete the below form at the conclusion of your project. Additional pages may be added.

Project Title: Thalia Elementary Oyster Gardeners

School / Organization and Teacher / Leader's Name: Thalia Elementary. Patricia Sare

Project Outcome (Lessons learned, successes, results, number of youth involved, etc.):

We learned a lot about oysters and the Lynnhaven River. Out of 2,000 oysters we were able to "plant" 1,387 in the Lynnhaven. We had 20 students in the Ecology Club, but we had many more students participate in the project. Tim Costello and about 10 other scouts completed the path.

If applicable, how many volunteers participated and for how many hours did they volunteer?

We had about 10 scouts and about 40 hours of volunteer time.

What did the students enjoy the most of this project?

The students really enjoyed the "hands on" science. They liked getting wet and muddy. They enjoyed cleaning the oysters and observing them.

How could a similar project be improved? (Lessons learned, etc.):

We need to get the oysters out of the creek in a different way. More classes could observe and learn about them if we had a better way to get them out of the creek.

Include copies of your receipts, any photos, materials, or program information available on your mini-grant program. Pictures received could be displayed on the websites.

Please fill out and mail or fax to HRPDC, Attention: HR³ Mini-Grant, 723 Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake, VA 23320, FAX: (757) 523-4881 Thank You!

Your completed and returned summary form will be submitted for consideration for the Project of the Year Award. If selected your project will be recognized at the regional environmental education conference.



Project Outcome

The best part of the project is the snowball effect it had on other projects at our school. The Eagle Scout coordinator, Jeff Waller, talked to Clay Bernick who works for the city of Virginia Beach in reference to the path to the creek. Clay Bernick had some resources so Jeff started his own project of building an outdoor classroom for the students with Scout Troop 364. We were able to involve the Ecology Club with this endeavor and the students' parents were able to help us with counting and measuring oysters. The students and parents also helped with the installation of the classroom. The second part of Jeff's project was planting a buffer zone around the school. The scouts, the Ecology Club students and parents, teachers and other volunteers planted 225 bushes and trees around the fence in our schoolyard by Thalia Creek. The plants are going to be watered and cared for by the fourth grade students who are going to adopt a tree. Each student will have a tree or bush to water, measure and nurture.

Of course, we still have other plans. We really need an environmental platform that goes out into the creek. Retrieving the oysters from Thalia Creek, is a tough job especially at low tide. We also need some mulch around the bushes as well as some extra dirt to go into playground so it could be seeded. We have other projects in mind, but I do want to thank-you for the grant. You certainly started some wonderful environmental projects for us at Thalia and I hope we can count on your support in the future.

I included some pictures so you can see our projects. Pictures 1-3 show the scouts building the path to the creek. Picture 4 shows the completed path in the spring. Picture 5 shows the Ecology Club cleaning the oysters. Picture 6 shows our outdoor classroom and picture 7 is a picture of some of the trees we planted. The rest of the pictures are from our field trip when we transplanted the oysters into the Lynnhaven River.





















