

[http://www.nj.com/south-jersey-towns/index.ssf/2017/02/schools\\_will\\_be\\_recognized\\_for.html#incart\\_river\\_index](http://www.nj.com/south-jersey-towns/index.ssf/2017/02/schools_will_be_recognized_for.html#incart_river_index)



February 15, 2017

## Schools will be recognized for environmental programs



The Environmental Community Service Award, presented by Wawa, 6abc, and the environmental law firm Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP (MGKF), celebrates more than a decade of supporting environmental programs that improve the local community. The goal of the Environmental Community Service Award is to recognize two schools (6th to 12th grades) for their outstanding programs that enhance and improve the quality of life in their communities as well as raise awareness of environmental concerns.

Each year two schools receive a \$5,000 honorarium to further their environmental programs. Surprise presentations will be made at the winning schools prior to Earth Day, April 22.

Since the program's inception, 22 schools in the tri-state area have been recognized for their outstanding programs. Last year, The Academy of Notre Dame was recognized for their contributions to the school's cross-curricular initiative, Project Stream. With the theme "Water Sustains All Life," every academic area, from science and mathematics, to art and religion, explored issues related to water scarcity, safety, and sustainability. Students in the religion department explored global issues of water poverty while science and mathematics students conducted flow rate and water quality studies on the Darby Creek and monitored water quality in partnership with the Darby Creek Valley Association. Senior level art students studying microscopic water samples created drawings similar to artist renderings seen in scientific textbooks. Middle school art students explored Gyotaku, a traditional Japanese art of printing images of fish from an actual fish.

Also recognized for their outstanding program was the Winslow Township Middle School in Atco. Teacher Ross Cruz developed an environmental STEM course that mirrors the community's farms. Students have created sustainable hydroponic systems in their classroom where they test the nutrients in the system and have plants, fruits and vegetables growing through the year. Using an engineering design process, they solve real world environmental-based design challenges ranging from repurposing non-recyclable K-Cups into seedling starter pots to using household items to create hydroponic systems that can grow plants in areas with limited water and land use.

In prior years, the winning schools from New Jersey (including Winslow Township Middle School, above) have been the Williamstown Middle School in Williamstown, Gateway Regional High School in Woodbury Heights; and Camden High School in Camden.

The individuals who judge the programs are all experts in the field of the environment and science. They are representatives from The Franklin Institute, the Academy of Natural Sciences, the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center, Pennsylvania and New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection, and Delaware's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control along with someone representing each sponsor -- Wawa, 6abc, and MGKF.

All applications must be signed by a school official and submitted by March 20. The Environmental Community Service Award application is available to download at these links.

- Wawa - <https://www.wawa.com/PressReleases.aspx>
- 6abc - <http://6abc.cm/1nVsHyd>
- Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP - [www.mankogold.com/about-community.html](http://www.mankogold.com/about-community.html)

It can be sent electronically but it must be signed by a school official and sent from an official school e-mail address. Electronic applications are accepted at [environmentalaward@mankogold.com](mailto:environmentalaward@mankogold.com) or a hardcopy can be sent by mail to MGKF, Attn: Environmental Award, 401 City Ave., Suite 901, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004. For general information, contact Manko Gold's Director of Marketing Julie Hayes ([jhayes@mankogold.com](mailto:jhayes@mankogold.com); **484-430-2352**).