



Hoover High School Awarded Eco-Schools USA Green Flag for Exceptional Achievement in Educating for Sustainability

Honor indicates commitment to sustainable management of school grounds, facilities, and curriculum

May 18, 2023

(Hoover, AL)– Hoover High School was recognized by National Wildlife Federation’s Eco-Schools USA program for exceptional achievement in educating for sustainability, and improving the environmental footprint of the school grounds, facility, and curriculum. It is the 3rd school honored in Alabama, and the 180th school in the U.S. to receive the prestigious Green Flag, the Eco-Schools highest honor.

With more than 5,500 schools in all 50 states, the Eco-Schools USA program is based on the commitment and work of student-driven teams dedicated to issues such as reducing waste and consumption, climate resiliency, and environmental justice using audits, action plans, and other educational resources.

"National Wildlife Federation and Eco-Schools USA are proud of the example set by Hoover High School," said Elizabeth Soper, senior director of K-12 Education Programs. "This award demonstrates not only a commitment to sustainability and environmental literacy for students and faculty, but as well, recognition by the school community that environment-based education supports and provides an effective approach to student learning and leadership."

To receive the Green Flag, Hoover High’s students and faculty tackled a host of sustainability initiatives that began with forming an Eco-Action team; auditing environmental focus areas; and engaging and building community. These steps led to projects, like the school’s Outdoor Classroom, all designed to raise environmental awareness, connect students to the natural world, improve the school’s environmental footprint, and increase student engagement, while saving money for the school.

"The Outdoor Classroom was inspired by a conversation with Lisa Carey in 2018-2019," said Janet Ort, Hoover High School coordinator of environmental sciences and STEM team coach. "Hoover High is surrounded by a natural laboratory, but many classes do not have the time to get out. The BioBucs (the green initiatives branch of the Hoover High STEMpire) decided to expand the classroom to attain AWF Outdoor Classroom Certification. The process also supported our attainment of Green Flag certification. Phase One contains Alabama Wildlife Federation learning stations updated for high schools and we have added solar stations to support engineering and technology activities. It has been exciting and inspiring to watch students grow into planning and execution of a large idea. We hope that sponsorships, grants, and donations will help us continue."

National Wildlife Federation was named the stateside host for the international Eco-Schools program in 2008. The International Eco-Schools program (<http://www.ecoschools.global>) is a network of over 56,000 K-12 schools in 70 nations, started in 1994 by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) with support from the European Commission. It was named by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) as a model initiative for Education for Sustainable Development in 2003 and in 2016 were included as members of United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Global Action Program (GAP).

Learn more about Eco-Schools USA, <http://www.nwf.org/eco-schools-usa>. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

The [National Wildlife Federation](#) is America's largest conservation organization, uniting all Americans to ensure wildlife thrive in a rapidly changing world.