

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

**THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ("MOU")** is made as of the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2018, between **City of Jacksonville Environmental Protection Board**, an executive board of the **City of Jacksonville**, a consolidated government under the laws of the state of Florida pursuant to chapter 73, Jacksonville Ordinance Code, whose address is 214 N Hogan Street – Suite 500, Jacksonville, FL 32202 ("EPB"), and the **Duval Soil & Water Conservation District**, with the address of 260 US Hwy 301 N., Baldwin, FL 32234("DSWCD") for the enhancement of Duval County Natural Resources Educational Events ("PROJECT").

### BACKGROUND FACTS

The intent of this MOU is to document that:

- EPB and DSWCD both support educational activities that enhance resident awareness of, and promote the conservation of, natural resources ; and
- EPB and DSWCD both support the Envirothon competition which allows high school students to understand and differentiate among local, state, and national natural resources and environmental issues ; and
- EPB and DSWCD both support and desire the enhancement of other natural resource educational programs and competitions for high school students.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the foregoing, the parties hereby agree as follows:

1. **RECITALS.** The Background Facts set forth above are true and correct, and are incorporated in and made a part of this MOU.

2. **OBLIGATIONS OF EACH PARTY.**

a. **EPB's Obligations:**

- i. EPB agrees to provide support for the PROJECT by seeking funding for the PROJECT described in Exhibit A;
- ii. EPB agrees to request the Mayor's Budget Review Committee ("MBRC") and, if approved by MBRC, the City Council to appropriate \$15,000.00 from the Environmental Protection Fund ("FUND") to fund the PROJECT pursuant to the following payment schedule as also outlined in Exhibit B:
  1. Following final approval of the appropriation, \$5,000.00 shall be disbursed by EPB from the FUND to DSWCD on September 1, 2018.
  2. The balance of the funding, in \$5,000.00 increments, shall be disbursed annually on September 1<sup>st</sup> in 2019 and 2020;
- iii. EPB agrees to use its best efforts to promote the PROJECT and share information about the PROJECT with the public.

**b. DSWCD Obligations**

- i. DSWCD agrees to accept EPB funding in the amount of \$15,000.00 according to the payment schedule set forth above.
  - ii. DSWCD agrees to expend the funds only for the PROJECT, and to return to EPB any funds not used for the PROJECT.
  - iii. DSWCD agrees to provide the services necessary to accomplish the PROJECT.
  - iv. DSWCD shall submit annual reports to the EPB, on or before August 15<sup>th</sup> of each year in which it receives funding from EPB providing an overview of students served, awards made, and other general information about and metrics for the PROJECT as reasonably requested by EPB.
3. **Term and Renewal.** This MOU shall continue in effect through August 30, 2021, and may be extended only with the agreement of both parties. EPB's performance and obligations to pay, if any, under the provisions of this MOU are subject to appropriation by the City Council of the City of Jacksonville. Nothing in this MOU shall be construed as providing DSWCD of any third party with a cause of action against EPB or the City of Jacksonville for failure to obtain or make an appropriation for the PROJECT.
4. **Performance.** DSWCD shall ensure that the PROJECT is conducted in a professional manner, using reasonable efforts and abilities, on a non-emergency basis.
5. **Safety.** EPB and DSWCD agree that the safety of all employees, contractors, and the public shall always be considered as having priority. Either EPB or DSWCD personnel may stop the PROJECT immediately due to any safety concerns.
6. **Force Majeure.** DSWCD shall not be liable for any failure or delay in the performance of its obligations under this MOU due to a force majeure event, including but not limited to, acts of civil or military authority, acts of courts and/or regulatory agencies, war, riot or insurrection, embargoes, sabotages, strikes or lockouts (provided such strike or lockout does not arise from inequitable labor practices), epidemics, fires, floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, and hurricanes. If any failure or delay results from such causes, upon notice from DSWCD within five days of the event giving rise to the delay, the time for performance shall be extended for a period of time reasonably necessary to overcome the effects of such delays. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if DSWCD's performance is rendered impossible or ineffective by the event or delay, then all funds distributed to DSWCD by EPB remaining unspent on the PROJECT shall be returned to EPB.
7. **No Waivers.** Failure of EPB or the City to take action to enforce compliance by DSWCD with any of the terms or conditions of this MOU after having received funds therefor, or to give notice or

declare this MOU or any authorization granted hereunder terminated shall not constitute a waiver or relinquishment of any term or condition of this MOU, but the same shall be and remain at all times in full force and effect.

8. **Entire MOU.** This MOU constitutes the entire understanding between the parties and supersedes all previous discussion, understandings and agreements between the parties relating to the subject matter hereof.
9. **Applicable Law.** The MOU shall be construed, interpreted and controlled by the laws of the State of Florida.
10. **Public Records.** The Parties understand and agree that all documents of any kind provided in connection with this MOU are public records and are treated as such in accordance with Florida law.
11. **Limitations of Government Liability.** Nothing in this MOU shall be deemed a waiver of immunity or limits of liability of either party or the City of Jacksonville beyond any statutory limited waiver of immunity or limits which may have been adopted by the Florida Legislature in Florida Statutes Section 768.28, or other statutes as amended from time to time, and nothing in this MOU shall inure to the benefit of any third party for the purpose of allowing any claim that would otherwise be barred under the Doctrine of Sovereign Immunity or by operation of law.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties executed this MOU effective the day and year first written above:

Duval Soil & Water Conservation District

City of Jacksonville

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**EXHIBIT A**  
**FUNDING REQUEST**



Duval Soil and Water Conservation District  
260 US Hwy 301 N., Baldwin, FL 32234  
[www.duvalsoilandwater.com](http://www.duvalsoilandwater.com)

## Funding Request for Enhancement of Duval County Natural Resources Educational Events

The Envirothon is a natural resources problem solving competition for high school students in categories that include Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Wildlife, Soils/Land Use, and a Current Environmental Issue. This hands-on natural resource event incorporates practical use of STEM initiatives and problem solving, logical, mathematical, team building and career opportunities as lessons for maintaining a balance between quality of life and quality of the environment.

The Duval Soil and Water Conservation District (DSWCD) was created in September of 1955 under the authority created by the Soil Conservation Act, passed by Florida Legislature in 1937. The DSWCD was organized by concerned citizens of Duval County to help landowners and users to conserve land, water, forests, wildlife and related natural resources.



1. Students from Darnell-Cookman participate in the 2016 Envirothon at Tree Hill Nature Center

**Funding is needed in order to expand Envirothon opportunities to each high school in Duval County, to enhance training by professionals in each category to competing schools, and to incentivize students to compete and win the Duval County Envirothon, speech contest, poster contest, and land judging competitions. \$15,000 is being requested to fund the listed components for the next 3 years in Duval County.**

1. Background
2. Duval County Envirothon
3. Speech Contest, Poster Contest and Land Judging
4. Funding Request
  - a. Envirothon
  - b. Speech Contest
  - c. Poster Contest
  - d. Land Judging
  - e. Itemized Budget
  - f. Sponsorship
5. Duval Soil and Water Conservation District

## Background

The Envirothon spans the length and breadth of North America. The ecological difference over the terrain is vast and brings together biological and cultural diversity. The Envirothon is a good example of an ongoing partnership with conservation districts and cooperating state, local and federal natural resource agencies. The Envirothon has a long history in North America.

*"In 1979, the Pennsylvania Soil and Water Conservation Districts created an "Environmental Olympics" as a way to encourage high school students to become interested in natural resource conservation and environmental issues and careers."*

[www.envirothon.org](http://www.envirothon.org)

One of the most unique characteristics of the Envirothon is that it allows students, as they progress through the challenges, to understand and **differentiate between local, state and national natural resources and environmental issues**. The curriculum and study materials change based on the competition, as the environment itself changes. At the state and national level students compete for scholarship awards in various amounts each year.



*2. NRCS Soils and Land Use station where students are asked to identify and analyze several soils.*

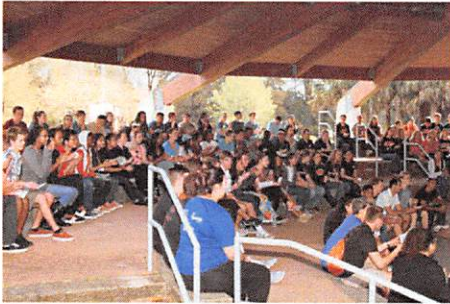
## Duval County Envirothon

In Duval County, the DSWCD has been helping organize, participate, fund or facilitate in the Envirothon for more than 20 years. The Envirothon, over time, has become a regional event. We invite Nassau, Clay, Bradford and St. Johns County to join us when their own District does not provide an event.

Currently, the Fred B. Miller, Jr. Envirothon is organized by a team of volunteers including current and former teachers, agency leaders and the DSWCD. In the last 3 years, the event has been hosted at the Diamond D Ranch, Tree Hill Nature Center, and

in 2017, at the UNF Wildlife Preserve. Outside of trivia, students are able to enjoy guided hikes, hay rides, and a picnic lunch after the competition concludes.

The most important aspect of the Envirothon is the subject matter. Natural resources is not a standalone subject in many high schools. At the Envirothon, students compete in five areas of study: Soils and Land Use, Forestry, Wildlife, Aquatic Ecology, and Current Environmental Issues ranging from economic or health questions to stewardship and invasive management. A 5-7 minute speech contest is prepared by the team on this topic and each team member is required to present. While websites and online curriculum exist to help students and teachers prepare for the Envirothon, local agencies also provide presentations and in house assistance in each of the categories. St. Johns Riverkeeper (SJRK) scheduled times to visit each school for lessons in aquatic ecology. The Florida Forest Service (FFS) teaches forestry, Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) teaches wildlife, the Duval Agricultural Extension Office (Duval IFAS) offers guidance in the current environmental issue and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides Soil Scientists for soils training. Each station at the Envirothon is a mixture of hands on tools and techniques with written questions and team exercises.



*3. More than 200 students participated in the 2016 Envirothon at Tree Hill Nature Center*

The Duval County Envirothon survives on a shoestring budget of \$1,500 - \$2,500 per year, gained through sponsorship solicitations by the DSWCD. These funds allow up to cover venue expenses, lunch for students and educators, agency leaders and event volunteers. We also pay the entry fee into the state competition and travel expenses.

***Formerly, the Jacksonville Environmental Protection Board funded the Envirothon.***

### **Speech Contest, Poster Contest, and Land Judging**

Natural Resources education doesn't stop with the Envirothon. The DSWCD also helps host a speech contest and poster contest in a topic chosen nationally by the National Association of Conservation Districts. Students can use art and communication to research, learn and create a speech or poster based on the topic. In categories based on age, the local district selects a winner that goes on to the regional, state, and United States competition.



3. In 2016, the winner of the Duval County speech contest won the title of Miss Jacksonville and then Miss Florida Teen. Public speaking was a part of the competition

In Duval County, we give out prizes for the top 3 students, totaling \$100 in the speech contest. Duval County has not hosted a poster contest in the last 3 years. The research and creative process in these competitions is invaluable. Many entries are not from students at public schools, but from home school students.



In 2017, the topic for the speech and poster contest was "Soils are Full of Life".

Land Judging is an extracurricular activity where Middle and High School students, usually 4-H, observe and interpret the soil in order to make wise land use decisions. Students can compete at the county, state, and national levels. In order to participate regionally, student must first compete in a local contest for their county hosted or coordinated by the local Soil and Water Conservation District. Duval County has not held a land judging competition in the last 3 years, despite a request from the Frank H. Peterson High School 4-H program for a competition in order to compete statewide.



## **Funding Request**

While the Envirothon and Speech Contest exist in Duval County, we want to enhance the programs in very specific ways that we feel will vastly improve the lessons and expand participation. We do not currently host the Poster or Land Judging contest in Duval County, and would like to begin building a foundation for these events that will last years or even decades.

**The Duval Soil and Water Conservation District wants to do more.** These events are a proven model for education with decades of experience behind them on local, state and national levels. We want Duval County high school students to have the same opportunities for participation. Here is how we plan to implement that vision:

### **ENVIROTHON**

We are proud of the regional Envirothon. Over the years, more and more counties in northeast Florida have stopped hosting the event, which for many, is the only lesson in natural resources education for high school students. The time with agency leaders in the classroom and in the field is invaluable. The hands on in the field equipment testing is unmatched.

#### **1. Every Public High School in Duval County**

To expand and grow the Envirothon, we have a goal to bring **a team from every single Duval County High School** to the event. In order to work towards this goal, we need to expand our individual **outreach to schools and to teachers**. In the last three years, an average of 200 students form 23 teams participate. However, these teams only represent 7-10 high schools. There are 23 Duval County Public High Schools and with an enhanced focus on individual **outreach from members in the Envirothon volunteer team and incentives**, we believe we can gain more participation from a broader array of schools that will build a foundation for participation in the future. Incentives to participate include waiving registration fees, funding transportation needs, or providing teacher incentives.

#### **Funding Request**

Graphic Design to promote the event, printing and distribution \$150  
Incentives for bringing in new schools \$500  
**Total \$650**

#### **2. Promote an internal Envirothon at area High Schools**

Of the 23 teams that participated in the Envirothon, 8 schools were represented. Sandalwood High School, Bishop Kenny High School, Atlantic Coast High School and Darnell-Cookman School of the Medical Arts all sent 4-5 teams. We believe that at least one of these schools could benefit from **hosting an internal Envirothon** and perhaps generate even **more school competition** and recognition. The winner of this internal competition would go to the county wide event. This model could be replicated with other area high schools. We need someone from the Envirothon liaison team to work on **building the competition** with a local high school, and will fund the time in doing this at a capped amount, only while the event becomes established.

#### **Funding Request**

Support to work with area high schools in creating the internal Envirothon \$500  
**Total \$500**

### 3. Agency Support

One of the most rewarding educational aspects of Envirothon is gaining **hands on training** with equipment by the agencies that partner to host the event. These trainings, conducted by FWC, FFS, Duval IFAS, NRCS and SJRK are often difficult to schedule because the agencies are understaffed, busy, or the classrooms themselves have very limited hours when students are available. We want to **encourage earlier training** in the year and **incentivize participation** with the agencies that are not able to provide a staff person. For example, the NRCS no longer has a regional soil scientist. SJRK only has one person on staff able to conduct these lessons. FWC and FFS are also equally strained in providing knowledgeable people on these subjects. If we are to expand to 23 high schools, we need to ensure the agencies can be available for 23 classroom lessons. Funding is needed to cover costs of these agencies, whatever those expenses may be for their participation. It may be that the agencies train someone willing to do these school visits. "Friends of the" type volunteers could also be a viable answer. Travel stipends may be necessary. Each agency will require individualized assistance.

#### Funding Request

Available funding assistance for travel, stipends, contractual fees for classroom training  
\$1,000  
**Total \$1,000**

### 4. Incentive for top winners

Currently, the winner of the Envirothon receives travel reimbursement and funding for the state competition. We would like to recognize, with **medals**, the top three teams in the contest. Often, it is only a single point that differentiates first place from second or third. Being able to offer something to the top three contestants allows **more students to be recognized** for their hard work. We have also created a **traveling trophy** that is displayed at the winning high school which allows schools to compete against each other. This engraved trophy is presented to the winning team at the Duval County School Board monthly meeting following the event.

#### Funding Request

Travel reimbursement and state entry fee \$400  
Medals for 6 students per team for the top three teams \$350  
Traveling Trophy \$50  
**Total \$800**

### 5. Conservation Teacher of the Year

The Conservation teacher of the Year award is a model program hosted by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). This award recognizes teachers that have excelled in providing valuable **conservation education in our schools**. It does not have to be the teacher that hosts the winning team at the annual Envirothon, but the program itself pairs well with **promoting and encouraging participation in the Envirothon**. We also believe the recognition could pair well with the EPB-DCPS Environmental Champion award. We would love to be a part of the annual Environmental Symposium by helping to sponsor or submit nominations for teachers that fit your criteria. Winning teachers would also be recognized at the annual Envirothon and at the Duval County School Board monthly meeting. We would **solicit nominations locally**, create an **award or prize** for the winning teacher if necessary, and publish the work of this teacher on our blog and in local newspapers.

### **Funding Request**

Graphic Design to promote the event, printing and distribution \$150  
Award for Winning Teacher \$75  
**Total \$225**

### **SPEECH CONTEST**

The speech contest is a great lesson in **researching an environmental issue, crafting a position** on that issue, and **speech composition**. The **public speaking** portion is an added benefit. In order to send the strongest candidates to the regional competition, Duval County needs to reach more students and the Envirothon is a great place to reach out and encourage students to apply. With a cash prize, we believe we can foster **more county participation**. We would also use the speech contest as a chance to give practical career advice. By bringing in **judges with name recognition and valuable expertise**, we can craft the event as a tool for college and career guidance question and answer time. This will change the event from a contest to a dialogue where students interested in the environmental sector for work or in college can speak to those in the profession.

### **Funding Request**

1<sup>st</sup> Place Cash Prize \$300  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Cash Prize \$150  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Cash Prize \$75  
Certificate of Participation ~16 students \$50  
Gift Baskets for 3 Judges \$100  
Graphic Design to promote the event, printing and distribution \$150  
Travel and Entry Fee for top winner to participate at the regional competition \$100  
**Total \$925**

### **POSTER CONTEST**

The poster contest allows students of all ages, K-12, to **artistically express the topic or theme**. This event is a great opportunity to engage those students that may not be willing, able or disposed to a speech contest, and allows a new method for entry into **environmental conservation research and expression**. We do not currently participate in the poster contest. Funding is needed to **create a flyer** or graphic that can be distributed to art teachers at all Duval County Public Schools. Funding is also needed to establish **cash prizes** for 1st place in three categories, certificates of participation, and a **gift for the judge**. The categories are for entries in grades K-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Last, we would like to incentivize the contest by **displaying the awarded winners** in each category in a public building.

### **Funding Request**

Three 1<sup>st</sup> Place Cash Prizes at \$50 each  
Certificate of Participation ~30 students \$100  
Gift Baskets for 1 Judge \$30  
Graphic Design to promote the event, printing and distribution \$150  
**Total \$430**

## LAND JUDGING

Land Judging is a very specific but vitally important skill. **Knowledge of soils** can lead to various **career opportunities and college programs**. For this, we need to **promote the event** through the local Duval County IFAS 4-H program and **host a local contest**. The local contest will allow us to **send a team to the regional competition**.

### Funding Request

Hosting a local 4-H event \$100  
Regional Competition Entry Fee and Travel \$250  
Graphic Design to promote the event, printing and distribution \$150  
**Total \$500**

### Sponsorship

Each year the Envirothon touches and positively influences the lives of more than 500,000 young people across the country. Becoming a sponsor of the Fred B. Miller, Jr. Regional Envirothon, Speech Contest, Poster Contest and Land Judging competition and partnership with the Duval Soil and Water Conservation District gives recognition at each of the events, advertising on publications at the events, recognition on the DSWCD website and Facebook page, on the Duval County Envirothon Facebook page, invitations to school activities, recognition in DSWCD press releases, and listing in the DSWCD newsletter.

***In Duval County, our natural resources educational programs reach approximately 200 students. With your support, we'd like to double that over the next three years. That is a goal we can reach, with your support.***

We appreciate the time the Jacksonville Environmental Protection Board took to review our funding request, and thank you in advance for your work in the community to promote, fund and advance environmental protection and natural resources education. Please call me with any questions at [sblankinship@gmail.com](mailto:sblankinship@gmail.com), or call (904) 614-6570.

Respectfully,  
Shannon Blankinship  
Chairman, Duval Soil and Water Conservation District

### ***Duval Soil and Water Conservation District***

*The Duval Soil and Water Conservation District was created in September of 1955 under the authority created by the Soil Conservation Act, passed by Florida Legislature in 1937. The Duval SWCD was organized by concerned citizens of Duval County to help landowners and users to conserve land, water, forests, wildlife and related natural resources.*

*Our mission is to deliver natural resources conservation technology and education to local landowners and users and to promote the wise use of land and best management practices that will conserve, improve and sustain the natural resources of Duval County.*

**EXHIBIT B**  
**PROJECT BUDGET**

Itemized Budget

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	3 Year Total	
Envirothon	<b>Every High School!</b>				
	Graphic Design, Printing	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	
	Incentives	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	
	<b>Internal High School Envirothon</b>				
	Capacity Support, Incentives	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	
	<b>Agency Support</b>				
	Travel, Stipends, Fees	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	
	<b>Prizes</b>				
	Entry Fee & Travel	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	
	Medals for top 3 teams	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00	
	Traveling Trophy	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	
	<b>Conservation Teacher of the Year</b>				
	Graphic Design, Printing	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	
	Award for Winning Teacher	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	
	<b>Total Envirothon</b>	<b>\$ 3,175.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,175.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,175.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,525.00</b>
Speech Contest	Cash Prizes	\$ 525.00	\$ 525.00	\$ 525.00	
	Certificates of Participation	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	
	Gift Baskets	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	
	Graphic Design, Printing	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	
	Entry Fee & Travel	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	
	<b>Total Speech Contest</b>	<b>\$ 925.00</b>	<b>\$ 925.00</b>	<b>\$ 925.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,775.00</b>
Poster Contest	Cash Prizes	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	
	Certificates of Participation	\$ 70.00	\$ 70.00	\$ 70.00	
	Gift Basket	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	
	Graphic Design, Printing	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	
	<b>Total Poster Contest</b>	<b>\$ 400.00</b>	<b>\$ 400.00</b>	<b>\$ 400.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,200.00</b>
Land Judging	Hosting 4-H Event	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	
	Entry Fee & Travel	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	
	Graphic Design, Printing	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	
<b>Total Land Judging</b>	<b>\$ 500.00</b>	<b>\$ 500.00</b>	<b>\$ 500.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,500.00</b>	
<b>Total Request for Funding to Enhance Natural Resources Education in Duval County</b>				<b>\$ 15,000.00</b>	