

Sample Letter to Parents

Dear Parents:

(Your school) has recently joined the Green Flag Program for Environmental Leadership in Schools. The program's purpose is to educate students from grades K-12 on environmental issues that commonly effect schools. With each positive step that your school takes, the program gives awards to the school and students, culminating in the presentation of the Green Flag Award for Environmental Leadership in a specific program area.



The program allows students—working with parents, teachers and school administrators—the opportunity to learn about their school environment by investigating a school's programs in areas such as: indoor air quality, recycling, use of non-toxic products and pest management without use of toxic chemicals.

The Green Flag Program was created by educators, health and safety officials, children's health advocates, parents and others, through the national Child Proofing Our Communities Campaign see <http://www.childproofing.org/index.html>. The campaign has worked with many school communities since its founding in 2000 and has learned that well-run school programs in these areas have positive environmental results and can improve health conditions for the entire school community. The Green Flag Program seeks to recognize schools that have successful environmental education programs and environmental policies, and encourage other schools to follow their example through participation in the program.

The program provides students with opportunities to conduct investigation through hands on exploration of issues affecting their school and community. It also teaches students how to employ methodical research skills to develop and make oral and written presentations, which achieve a tangible goal with obvious benefits. The program teaches cooperative learning by encouraging a team approach to problem solving. Students are required to form a group, make presentations to peers and work with adults through an interdisciplinary educational process that involves teachers, community members, school facility and administrative staff.

At (your school), the program will be coordinated by (Green Flag School Coordinator's name) who will be happy to answer any questions about the program. We encourage parental and other community members' participation in the Green Flag Program. To learn more about the national Green Flag Program for Environmental Leadership, please see <http://www.greenflagschools.org/> or phone the Green Flag Program Coordinator at 703-237-2249.

Thank you for your interest in the Green Flag Program.

Sincerely,