

Friends of the High School for Environmental Studies

Fall 2011 Newsletter



HSES Students are joined by Councilmember Gale Brewer as they prepare to plant bulbs on West 56th Street

Daffodil Project

For the past 10 years, the Daffodil Project has been a living memorial to the events of September 11th, 2001. This citywide effort to beautify neighborhoods by planting daffodils has been led by New Yorkers for Parks in cooperation with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation and engages New Yorkers in the revitalization of their communities.

On October 15, 2011, Friends of the High School for Environmental Studies (Friends of HSES) and 20 HSES students partnered with New Yorkers for Parks, Trees New York and the West 55th Street Block Association to plant hundreds of daffodil bulbs on West 56th Street (the street of the High School). The students learned about civic engagement by collaborating with the volunteer partners from the Block Association and New Yorkers for Parks. And working with Trees New York they learned the basics of how to care for trees and gained a better understanding of what helps trees grow and flourish in their neighborhoods. We would especially like to thank NYC Councilmember Gale Brewer for joining the students to show her support for their work.

Summer Programs

Friends worked with nearly 40 organizations to make sure HSES students kept busy this summer. Providing the information for available employment, internship, volunteer, and fun opportunities we made sure our students had access to a variety of opportunities that fit their varied interests. From students who wanted to leave the city and have leadership experience through wilderness excursions, to those with a desire to learn about transportation issues impacting New York City, our students were involved in many activities including boat-building, sailing, biking, politics, art, design, education, animal care, museum operations, science research, social media, gardening, and office management. We worked with over 100 students to make their summers full of adventure.

Many Thanks to our Summer Partners!

Alley Pond Ecology Center, American Museum of Natural History–Saltz Expedition, Black Rock Forest Consortium, Central Park Conservancy, Christodora, City Parks Productions, Councilwoman Gale Brewer’s Office, Energy Investment Systems, Friends of Hudson River Park, Friends of Van Cortlandt Park, Green Apple Map, Green Guerillas, YMCA, Hudson River Park Trust, Inwood Hill Ranger Conservation Corps, New York League of Conservation Voters, National Park Service, The Nature Conservancy, New York Aquarium, New York Botanical Garden, New York Restoration Project, National Outdoor Leadership School, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Camps, NY Windstar, Ondi McMaster Design, Outdoor Nation, Prospect Park Zoo, Queens Botanical Garden, Queens Wildlife Center, Recycle a Bicycle, Rocking the Boat, Sandy Gellis Art Studio, Sierra Club, Student Conservation Association, The River Project, Transportation Alternative, Vermont Youth Conservation Corp, Wave Hill

Friends in the Community

Friends of HSES partners with dozens of organizations each year, in order to provide the best learning opportunities for our students through year-long internships. Through the internship program, students are required to complete 100 hours of community service at one of over 25 host sites in New York City.

Site Supervisors at the different organizations guide students in what for many is their first working experience. While in the program, students meet once a week in an advisory class where they learn how to write cover letters and resumes and how to set goals and accomplish them through planning and hard work. This year, we have nearly 100 students in the program and they are on pace to volunteer over 10,000 hours by the end of May 2012.

Friends continued its 15-year partnership with the Nature Conservancy’s Leaders in Environmental Action for the Future (LEAF) Program. LEAF immerses urban youth in a 4-week natural environment setting and supports them in pursuing higher education opportunities while introducing them to environmental career paths. This summer 26 highly qualified HSES students participated in LEAF’s summer internship on one of 19 preserves managed by the Nature Conservancy.

Two students also won scholarships to go backpacking in Alaska through our partnership with the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS). Upon their return home, they expressed their feelings about the summer by simply stating “It was Awesome!”



Many Thanks to our 2011-2012 Internship Sites!

American Museum of Natural History, Child Mind Institute, City Parks Alliance, Councilmember Gale Brewer’s Office, Donors Choose, Friends of Hudson River Park, Friends of Van Cortlandt Park, GrowNYC’s Green Market, HSES Library, HSES Science Department, HSES Student Affairs, Municipal Arts Society, New York Aquarium, New York Botanical Garden, New York Hall of Science, New York League of Conservation Voters, New York Restoration Project, New York University Medical Center, New York Windstar, Polly Dodge Early Learning Center, Prospect Park Zoo, Sierra Club, The River Project, Transportation Alternatives, White Plains Hospital, Wildlife Conservation Society

Honoring our Champions



On October 20th, 2011, Friends of HSES held a reception at the Century Association to honor Marcia Bystryn, Executive Director of the New York League of Conservation Voters, and the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation.

As a member of the Board of Directors, Ms. Bystryn has been invaluable in helping to shape and guide the work of Friends for many years. Her long personal commitment to youth development has ensured that we continue to connect students with internships. The NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, represented by Assistant Commissioner Joshua Laird, was recognized for its continued support of the Friends' programs. Over the years, the Parks Department has hosted hundreds of HSES interns and continues to connect our students with great opportunities to become better environmental stewards. Two HSES interns who had recently interned with each honoree were on hand to present the Friends' awards. The Friends of HSES thanks both of its honorees for their support over the years and we look forward to continued collaboration with them as well as other individuals and organizations.

Thank You

Friends of the High School for Environmental Studies is not-for-profit organization funded through grants, corporate sponsorships and individual contributions. We would like to thank all of our supporters for their contributions to our work and would like to give special recognition to the following foundations and corporations:

The Rhodebeck Charitable Trust, Toshiba America Foundation, Consolidated Edison, International Venture Capital, Genatt Associates, The Winston Foundation, The Vidda Foundation, The Bay & Paul Foundations, Disney Worldwide Outreach, Mt. Sinai Medical Center, The Durst Organization, Peter & Helen Haje Foundation and Robert Sterling Clarke Foundation. And we would like to thank Robert Washington for volunteering to design this newsletter.

Your support is most appreciated!

All contributions are 100% tax-deductible. If you would like to join our list of champions please contact Matthew S. Washington, Executive Director at mwashington@friendsofhSES.org or (212) 262-8113 x4320

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