



Wyoming Department of Education

Cindy Hill, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Hathaway Building, 2nd Floor, 2300 Capitol Avenue
Cheyenne WY 82002-0050

Phone: 307-777-7673 Fax: 307-777-6234 Website: edu.wyoming.gov

MEMORANDUM NO. 2011-145

TO: School District Superintendents
Wyoming School Principals

FROM: Cindy Hill

DATE: November 16, 2011

SUBJECT: Christopher Columbus Awards Program

INFORMATION TO SHARE

I received the attached information offering Wyoming students the opportunity to participate in the Christopher Columbus Awards Program. This program challenges sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students to explore opportunities for positive change in their communities. Please share this information with the principals, counselors, and teachers in your district and ask them to encourage their students to participate in this program. Thank you.

CH:rew

Attachments



Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation

October 18, 2011

TO: Ms. Cindy Hill
Wyoming State Superintendent of Public Instruction

FROM: Ruth Holmes for Judi Shellenberger, Executive Director

RE: Call for Entries for the **Christopher Columbus Awards**
program, a National Middle School Competition

FAX NUMBER: (307) 777-6234

PAGES: 3 (including cover)

The Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation, a Federal government agency, is pleased to announce the national Call for Entries for the 2011-2012 *Christopher Columbus Awards* program. Now in its 16th year, the awards challenge sixth, seventh and eighth grade school students to explore opportunities for positive change in their communities.

I have attached the Call for Entries for your use. The program is free to enter. All relevant information about how to enter the competition, including the Entry Components and Checklist, Entry Forms, Student Guide and Coach's/Teacher's Guide are available online at: www.christophercolumbusawards.com. The deadline for receipt of the complete Entry packet is **Monday, February 6, 2012**.

I would appreciate your assistance in getting the word out about the awards. I encourage you to share the information with your schools, friends and associates. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Stephanie Hallman at: (800) 291-6020 ext. 3154 or email: shallman@mmseducation.com.

Thank you for your assistance in supporting the 2011-2012 *Christopher Columbus Awards*.

[Note: A PDF version of the Call for Entries is available upon request by calling: (315) 258-0090 or email: ccfruth@roadrunner.com.]



CALL FOR ENTRIES

Contact: Stephanie Hallman
shallman@mmseducation.com
 800-291-6020 x 3154

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS AWARDS CHALLENGES TEAMS OF MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS TO SOLVE COMMUNITY PROBLEMS USING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Finalist Teams Win Trip to Walt Disney World®

AUBURN, N.Y.—September 13, 2011—Now in its 16th year, the ***Christopher Columbus Awards***, a free program that challenges middle school students to explore opportunities for positive change in their communities, announces the program's **Call for Entries for the 2011-2012 school year**. Teams of up to four students and a coach identify a community issue and use the scientific process to solve it. Finalist teams win an all-expense-paid trip to Walt Disney World® where they compete to attend the Christopher Columbus Academy for gold medals and U.S. Savings Bonds.

In its 15 years, the program has attracted over 19,000 'everyday' students from all across the U.S., and appeals to educators who are increasingly looking to develop critical STEM skills in students while meeting state and Federal standards. The program:

- is a **cross-curricular STEM activity that helps meet both NCLB and state standards.**
- helps address the performance gap in U.S. science education by encouraging critical thinking skills in all students.
- encourages community service.

Deadline and How to Enter

The ***Christopher Columbus Awards*** is free to enter. For more information and competition guidelines, call 800-291-6020 or visit www.christophercolumbusawards.com. Coaches may be teachers, parents, community leaders or mentors. Teams do not need to be affiliated with a school to enter. The **deadline for receipt of entries is Monday, February 6, 2012.**

- MORE -

Who Wins?

One of the 2007 winning teams was a group of students from West Branch, Iowa, who felt there was an environmental hazard caused by used oil filters being disposed of in household trash. They developed an awareness campaign to educate the public about the dangers of placing used oil filters in landfills and worked with their state legislature to pass an oil filter recycling law. Past winners also have included a team from San Diego that has secured a provisional patent for a specialized seat cushion design that uses sensory feedback to train people to maintain a healthy posture while sitting at a computer, and a group of students from Illinois who developed a multifaceted recycling awareness campaign that increased recycling in their community by 60% in just four months. A complete list of past winners can be found at: www.christophercolumbusawards.com.

Strong Participation from Girls, Minorities

The program attracts many students who may not typically enter a science competition. More than half of the entrants are girls, and more than a fourth are from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds, statistics that are higher than those of most science competitions.

About the Sponsor

The **Christopher Columbus Awards** program is sponsored by the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation (www.columbusfdn.org) and it is endorsed by the Association of Middle Level Educators. The Foundation is an independent Federal government agency created by Congress in 1992 to encourage and support research, study and labor designed to produce new discoveries in all fields of endeavor for the benefit of mankind.

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