

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Vice Chair

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 12-146
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,
FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE CONSERVATION TEEN
SCIENTIST PROGRAM**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC
FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The Conservation Teen Scientist (CTS) program is a unique opportunity for high school students to volunteer at ZooMiami. The CTS program was developed by the Zoological Society of Florida to demonstrate ZooMiami's mission to enhance the visitor's experience through conservation, environmental and animal education. Conservation Teen Scientists learn conservation stewardship and represent the zoo in local conservation efforts. They also develop life skills such as responsibility, determination, pride, and teamwork.

Zoo professionals teach Conservation Teen Scientists in classroom and field work settings. They also work beside Children's Zoo staff and learn and master natural history, taxonomy, classification, animal behavior, wildlife conservation, and interpretive talks to audiences. Participants attend eight weekend training sessions. Each Saturday session is six hours. They must score 75 percent or higher on weekly quizzes in order to qualify for work on zoo grounds. In addition to volunteering at the zoo, Conservation Teen Scientists work along side scientists at Everglades National Park, Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve and the Marine Lab in Key Largo.

The Conservation Teen Scientist program is to be commended for enriching the lives of its participants through conservation education and advocacy in addition to educating the public in eco-literacy and the environment.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-146 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the Conservation Teen Scientist Program.

**RESOLUTION NO. 12-146
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING THE CONSERVATION TEEN SCIENTIST PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Conservation Teen Scientist (CTS) program is a unique opportunity for high school students to volunteer at ZooMiami. The CTS program was developed by the Zoological Society of Florida to demonstrate ZooMiami's mission to enhance the visitor's experience through conservation, environmental and animal education; and

WHEREAS, Conservation Teen Scientists learn conservation stewardship and represent the zoo in local conservation efforts. They also develop life skills such as responsibility, determination, pride, and teamwork; and

WHEREAS, zoo professionals teach Conservation Teen Scientists in classroom and field work settings. They also work beside Children's Zoo staff and learn and master natural history, taxonomy, classification, animal behavior, wildlife conservation, and interpretive talks to audiences; and

WHEREAS, participants attend eight weekend training sessions. Each Saturday session is six hours. They must score 75 percent or higher on weekly quizzes in order to qualify for work on zoo grounds; and

WHEREAS, in addition to volunteering at the zoo, Conservation Teen Scientists work along side scientists at Everglades National Park, Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve and the Marine Lab in Key Largo; and

WHEREAS, the Conservation Teen Scientist program is to be commended for enriching the lives of its participants through conservation education and advocacy in addition to educating the public in eco-literacy and the environment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-146 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the Conservation Teen Scientist Program.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

Presented this tenth day of October A.D. 2012

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary