



James and Anne Robinson Foundation Green Footprint Awards

2012 Announcement

Background

The Robinson Foundation initiated the Green Footprint Awards for Community and Educational Leadership in 2010, when Conscious Corner, a Howard County business, and Karen Learnmouth, a Howard County public school teacher, were honored for their achievements. In 2011, the program was further expanded to acknowledge outstanding contributions by a local artist or arts program. In 2011, we honored the Howard County Conservancy for Artistic Leadership, Susan Lower for Education Leadership in the Schools, Sylvia Huestis for Education Leadership in the Community, and Elaine Pardoe for Community Leadership. The 2012 Green Footprint Awards for education, community, and arts leadership will be conferred on April 14, 2012 at the Howard County Greenfest.

Guidelines for Awards

The Green Footprint Awards for Artistic, Community, and Educational Leadership aim to recognize and encourage outstanding leadership in nature conservation, environmental protection, sustainability, outdoor appreciation, and stewardship of the natural world. Nominations for these awards are welcome from the public, and a call for nominations will be announced on the Foundation website and in a press release. Nominations may be submitted in writing by mail or email. The deadline for submitting nominations is January 31, 2012.

Award Categories

Green Footprint Award for Artistic Leadership—Recognizing individuals for noteworthy achievements, either for a body of artistic work, such as paintings, sculpture, landscaping, fiction, poetry, music, or dance, or for an exceptional single achievement such as a film or book. Organizations are also eligible for this award for supporting nature-related artistic achievement such as sponsoring literary programs that encourage a wider appreciation for the natural world.

Green Footprint Award for Community Leadership—Recognizing individuals, businesses, or groups that practice and foster environmental values such as nature stewardship, sustainability, and green innovation. Partnerships between for-profit and not-for-profit organizations that lead to advances in

environmental technologies, stewardship, or protection are also eligible for community leadership awards.

Green Footprint Award for Educational Leadership—Recognizing individuals or groups engaged in exceptional efforts to increase understanding and appreciation of nature, natural science, sustainability, or environmental stewardship. Nominees may be professional or volunteer leaders of formal or informal programs at schools, faith-based institutions, museums, scouting organizations, or other community groups.

Eligibility. For all awards, eligible individuals must live or work in Howard County, and businesses or nonprofit group nominees must be based in or have an active presence in Howard County. Nominees from previous years may be re-nominated.

Qualifying Accomplishments. Endeavors to be recognized may include, but are not limited to:

- Protecting or restoring native Howard County wildlife and plant communities.
- Protecting or restoring the Middle Patuxent River and the water, air, and soils of the Middle Patuxent watershed.
- Connecting Howard County children with nature, wildlife, and nature-based recreation.
- Creating programs to encourage under-served population to enjoy the outdoors
- Fostering nature appreciation and enjoyment for people of all ages and from diverse backgrounds.
- Facilitating practical improvements or innovations in sustainable living and business practices.
- Improving understanding of the historical interdependence of people and wildlife, plants, water, and the land.

Award Criteria. The Robinson Foundation Advisory Board will use the following criteria to assess the relative merits of nominees for the Arts, Community, and Education:

- Creativity: Nominees should use creative problem solving, flexible thinking, and fresh ideas to address challenges in protecting the natural world.
- Innovation: Nominees should display outstanding willingness and ability to take risks in creating new systems or applications or in adapting cutting-edge approaches toward local goals.
- Leadership: Award winners will be exceptionally successful in motivating and inspiring others to attempt and complete environmental projects and programs.