

City of Fort Lauderdale Green Your Routine Frequently Asked Questions



What is the Green Your Routine Program?

The Green Your Routine Program works to promote waste reduction, recycling and sustainable initiatives at home, school, work and play by engaging neighbors in volunteerism and education.

What is a Green Your Routine Volunteer?

Green Your Routine (GYR) Volunteers are residents in one of the City of Fort Lauderdale's officially recognized associations. They work directly with the City's Green Your Routine Program Coordinator, volunteering for different sustainability-related opportunities and earning funds for their association through the Sustainability Incentive Grant.

Recognized associations may appoint one resident (or a group of residents) as a liaison who represents the neighborhood and mobilizes other members for volunteer work.

If you are environmentally conscientious, live in the City of Fort Lauderdale, and can offer at least four hours a month, the Sustainability Office encourages you to become a "Green Your Routine" volunteer!

What does a Green Your Routine volunteer do?

GYR Volunteers are called to action for numerous sustainability-related opportunities. You might assist City staff at festivals and special events by manning information tables or assisting with recycling operations. Or, you might coordinate an event to generate awareness and educate residents about sustainability in your own neighborhood. You may volunteer to help maintain a butterfly garden, or if you enjoy writing, you may want to consider developing articles for neighborhood association newsletters.

You can choose the activities that best suit you based on your time schedule, comfort level, and style. Recruiting others to participate with you is an important aspect of this role as well. Whatever you choose, you can count on making a difference in your neighborhood, your City and your world!

Check out our "Volunteers in Action" page to see some of the activities volunteers are engaged in throughout the year!

Who is eligible to participate and apply for the Sustainability Incentive Grant?

Associations officially recognized by the City of Fort Lauderdale.

How does the association earn money?

The City's Green Your Routine Program Coordinator develops a list of activities that GYR volunteers can participate in each year. Activities are worth a set amount of points. At the end of each fiscal year, GYR representatives submit an award application for their association documenting points earned over the course of that fiscal year. The SIG award is presented to participating communities at a City Commission meeting.

In addition, volunteers receive a thank you gift from the City for their participation and support of the sustainability program.

How do I submit a grant award application?

To qualify for grant awards, associations must complete and submit an SIG Award application and attach all required documentation before submittal deadline. All program guidelines must have been followed and the application must be completed with accurate information to ensure proper processing of the grant request.

If application is submitted after deadline, association may be subject to penalties.

Do associations have to spend the funds they receive a certain way?

The grant requires a minimum of 25% of the funding be utilized to promote environmental sustainability projects with the approval of the Green Your Routine Coordinator. A section of the SIG application requests a written summary of the previous year's allocation of SIG funding. Some ideas on ways to spend SIG funds to meet this requirement are:

- Creating community urban gardens
- Planting Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ plants and trees in public areas
- Increasing the urban canopy (shade trees, not palms) for private property
 - o The City provides free trees for public property
 - o May use city contract pricing for purchases
 - o Contact the City Urban Forester with questions at 954-828-5785 or through the GYR Coordinator
- Purchasing park amenities made of recyclable materials, such as benches made from recycled plastic
- Donating scholarships for Environmental Studies students
- Purchasing clean-up event items, such as gloves, rakes, trash pickers and garbage bags
- Handing out recycled material tote bags to new association members
- Purchasing neighborhood event recycling containers
- Switching to energy-efficient light bulbs for clubhouse/meeting room
- Other similar programs and projects that promote sustainability

When do volunteers meet?

Under the direction of the City's Green Your Routine Coordinator, GYR Representatives meet the SECOND Monday of EVERY OTHER month. Currently, due to COVID-19 restrictions, meetings are held at 7 p.m. on Zoom. For exact meeting dates, check the online calendar at www.fortlauderdale.gov/gyr

There is no meet up for all volunteers involved in the program, only the Representatives.

How do I sign up?

To become a representative, please contact your neighborhood association and let an official know you are interested in participating on behalf of your association. Download and submit the Green Your Routine Representative Application to the City's GYR Program Coordinator by email to GYR@fortlauderdale.gov. You will be invited to attend the next meeting and begin earning points for your association.

To become a volunteer, simply contact your association's GYR representative and let them know you are interested and available to volunteer for your association.

What if my association's GYR representative can no longer participate?

Most volunteers are very active in the community and find time valuable. Should the need arise to resign at any time, representatives are asked to meet with the Green Your Routine Coordinator for an exit interview before leaving and inform their association.

Volunteers will be dismissed if their behavior is detrimental to the City, patrons, staff members or does not meet the requirements of the program, such as:

- Imposing personal, religious or political views on others
- Abusing alcohol or drugs
- Smoking when/where prohibited
- Failing to observe volunteer program regulations
- Bullying or intimidating staff, volunteers or members of the public
- Disruptive behavior
- Possessing a weapon
- Sexual harassment
- Stealing

Our Policy

It is the policy of this organization to provide equal opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual preference, age, or disability.

Thank you for completing this application form and for your interest in volunteering.