

Coder Elementary Recognition

Coder Elementary entered their Aledo Prairie Project in the Disney Planet Challenge during the 2011-2012 school year. Competing with over 400 schools nation-wide in grades 3-5, Coder Elementary was recognized as a state finalist and one of the top 20 schools in the nation based on their environmental work. We are very proud of the sponsors, Michelle Yates and Susan Stirewalt for leading their wonderful group of students in extending their knowledge and skills in science to make a positive difference in the local environment.

Background Information

Disney's Planet Challenge (DPC) is a project-based learning environmental competition for classrooms across the United States. DPC teaches kids about science and conservation while empowering them to make a positive impact on their communities and planet. DPC is a unique chance for teachers to blend standards-based content, critical thinking skills, and environmental principles in a class project that moves students from awareness to action for a positive impact on their community.

The Class Project builds on sound scientific understanding, and integrates English/language arts, and mathematics, while providing opportunities to incorporate technology and the visual and performing arts. Teachers enroll their class in DPC; however, it is the students who initiate, develop and implement all parts of the project. Students are responsible for creating and submitting a portfolio as well as answering several essays as a reflection of their project.

Once the projects are sent to Disney they are reviewed and graded on a rubric by former winners, teachers, and environmentalist. This year there were over 400 schools nationwide who competed in the 3-5th grade level. Coder Elementary competed with their Aledo Prairie Project and was named the finalists for the State of Texas and was named one of the top 20 national finalists that competed for the grand prize.