

# Air Quality Flag Program

## Winter 2020 Newsletter



### NEW FLAG PROGRAM TEAM MEMBER!

Welcome to the newest Air Quality Flag Program team member! Sarah Matthews joined the Flag Program last Fall and has been working to align our lesson plans with the Next Generation Science Standards. She is a former middle school teacher and lives in Raleigh, NC with her three children. Sarah is excited to be a part of the AQFP team, so don't hesitate to reach out to her!



### COCO IS BACK!

Our 5<sup>th</sup> printing of the children's picture book, *Why is Coco Orange?* is now available. The updated 2019 Coco books are free at NSCEP, the National Service Center for Environmental Publications.

You can order your books at

<https://www.epa.gov/nscep#searchApp>, and

search on 456K19001. Find online and downloadable copies, as well as a Coco flyer and coloring page at

[https://www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=picture\\_book.index](https://www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=picture_book.index).

### FLORIDA ASTHMA PROGRAM



Wanda M. Rodríguez-Donham, Asthma Program Manager at the Florida Department of Health, sent us this update about the Florida Asthma Program (FAP):

"FAP encourages schools to adopt the Air Quality Flag Program through their Asthma-Friendly Schools Recognition Program (AFS). The AFS has four levels of recognition, bronze, silver, gold, and platinum. The gold level is all about healthy schools' environment and the Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) program, which includes the Air Quality Flag Program. Participating schools receive a flag kit from the FAP to develop policies to improve students' health. By adopting the Air Quality Flag Program, students learn how the environment plays an important role in their health and their communities."

## FLAG CREATIVITY

Organizations in several countries use air quality flags to communicate their local conditions. The vinyl banner in the photo below was sent to us by Alberto Mexia Sánchez at the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California. Professor Sánchez is working with Comité Cívico Ambiental and many local communities in the Mexicali area to better track and educate people about their local air quality. The flags are attached with velcro, and can be removed, leaving the correct flag for the air quality of the day.



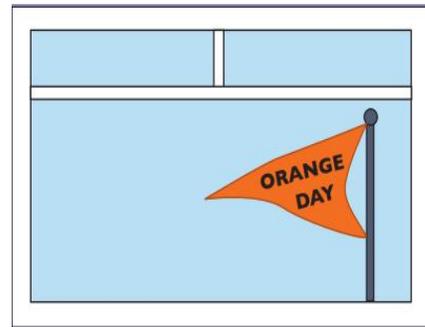
If your school or organization is displaying flags and communicating about air quality in a creative way, we would love to hear about it! Please email any of us using the contact information to the right.

## MISSING CERTIFICATE?

Have you lost or misplaced your Air Quality Flag Program certificate of participation? Or do you need another one to display in another area? We now have an electronic version that you can fill in with your organization's information. Email us at [AQFlagProgram@epa.gov](mailto:AQFlagProgram@epa.gov) if you'd like a new one to display in your building.

## FLAG DISCOUNTS

Looking to buy flags? If your organization qualifies, the U.S. General Services Administration (<https://www.gsaaadvantage.gov/advantage/main/home.do>) offers discounts on commercial products and services for purchase by state, local and tribal governments, as well as educational institutions. For more information on whether your organization qualifies, check <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-2011-title40/html/USCODE-2011-title40-subtitle1-chap5-subchapl-sec502.htm>.



Approved vendor: ICM – International Commerce & Marketing

Attn: Joel Herringa  
500 W. Oklahoma Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53207-2649

Flag colors and numbers:

- Yellow Pennant – 152163
- Pansy Pennant – 152139
- Canadian Red Pennant – 152174
- Golden Poppy Pennant – 152167
- Irish Green Pennant – 152113

## Flag Team Contacts

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