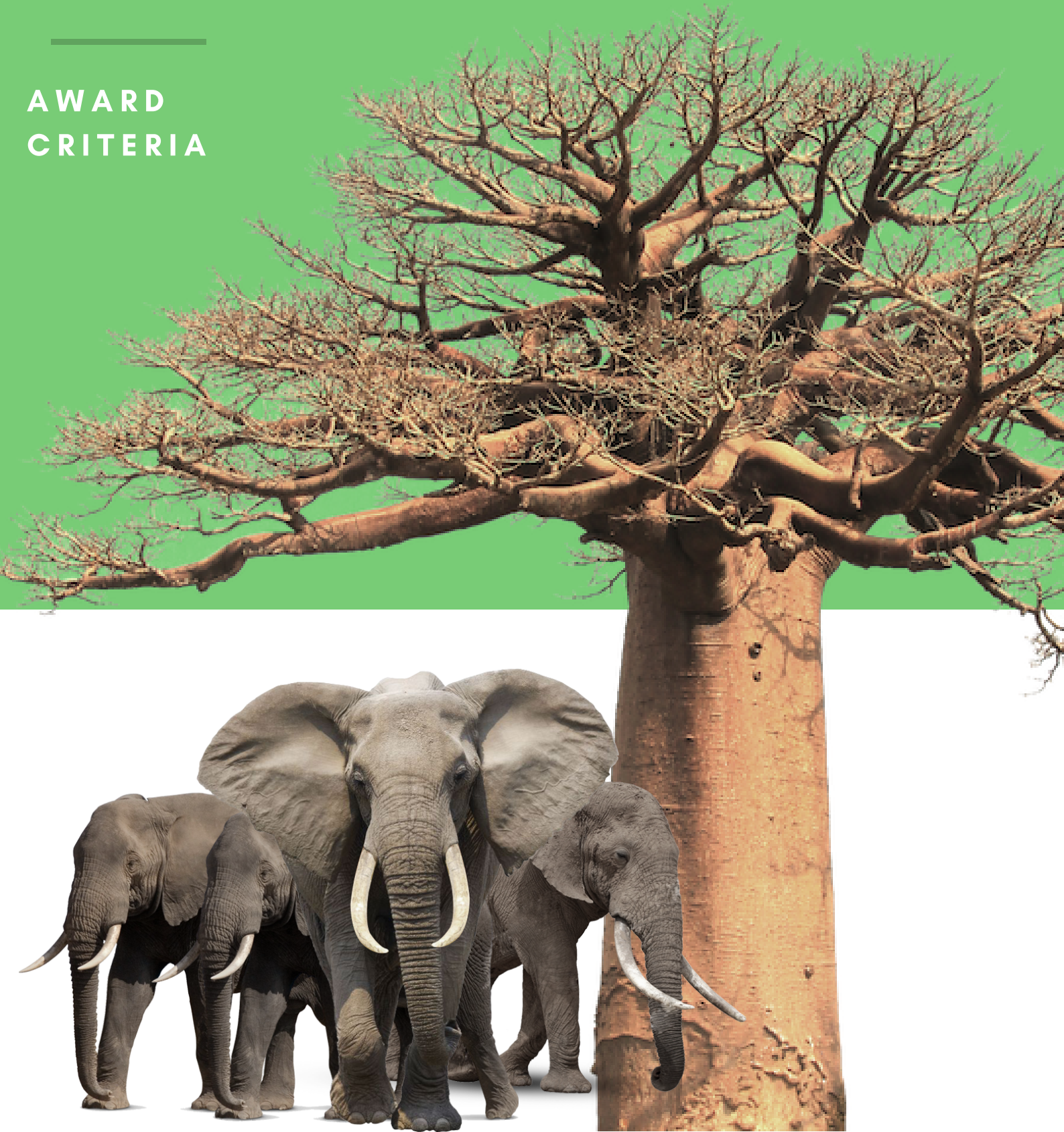
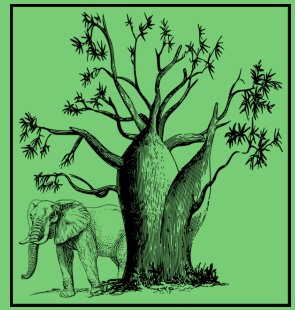


BAOBAB CHALLENGE



AWARD
CRITERIA





The Baobab Tree

The Baobab Tree is an emotive icon of the bushveld. It is an integral part of traditional folklore and with many stories making reference to its uses, its unique shape and its meaning. The Baobab is a tree that is iconic as it stands for strength, power, presence and most importantly grace. The Baobab is therefore an apt symbol and name for this environmental award because the challenges in achieving it will bring about community, enlightenment and enrichment, just like its arboreal namesake.

The Elephant Herd

The elephant is another icon of Southern Africa. It is a species which faces innumerable challenges, but at the same time, it reminds us of our humanity. There is much we see of ourselves in the behavior of elephants in a herd. They are also intelligent creatures who place immense value on their family unit. As this award is motivated by families working together, the elephant is appropriate as a symbol that reinforces the strength of these relationships.





GENERAL GUIDELINES

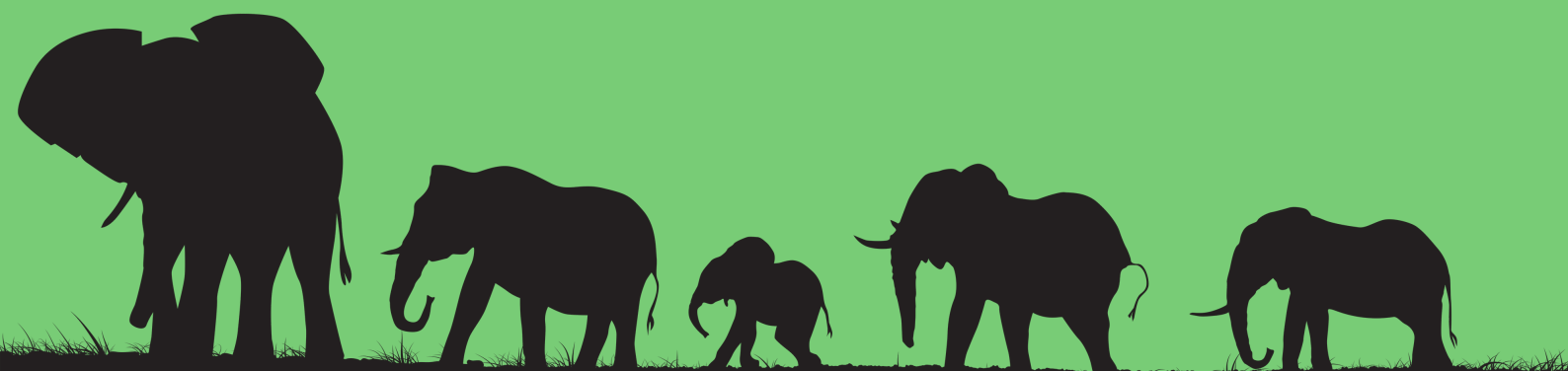
The Baobab Award is an incentive to be environmentally conscious and to contribute to the many conservation initiatives that are available to us as South Africans.

The award is unique as it is achieved by the collective involvement as a family, rather than an individual. This enables more conversation time and shared experiences which can resonate with making a difference for a better world in a fun, educative way for the whole family.

The requirements for the award are divided into the following categories:

- Home Sustainability
- Conservation Awareness
- Ecological Project
- Environmental Service

The details of these four areas are extrapolated on the following pages.





HOME

SUSTAINABILITY

Preamble

For many households in South Africa, sustainable practices are something that we strive towards with good intentions, but are not always able to fulfill. The outcome of this module, therefore, is to enable families to form good habits regarding their green footprint, their ongoing sustainability choices being monitored through a logbook.

There are a variety of sustainable exercises in the form of water management, electricity management, recycling and reusing. Each of these observations can be monitored by different members of the family.

- Water Management
- Electricity Management
- Recycling
- Reusing

In order to succeed in this area, families are to produce photographic evidence and a daily logbook which covers the aforementioned habits over the course of three months during a year.





HOME

SUSTAINABILITY

Water Management

The water crisis in Cape Town has highlighted how frivolous we can be with this commodity. Participants are required to keep a log of the water consumption of their household as well as details in changes in water management techniques in the home. According to EarthEasy (Solutions to Sustainable Living) the following small changes can have a large affect on our water use:

House

1. Check faucets and pipes for leaks
2. Don't use the toilet as a rubbish bin
3. Check your toilets for leaks
4. Install water-saving shower heads and low-flow faucet aerators
5. Put plastic bottles or float booster in your toilet tank
6. Insulate your water pipes.
7. Take shorter showers.
8. Turn off the water after you wet your toothbrush
9. Rinse your razor in the sink
10. Use your dishwasher and clothes washer for only full loads
11. When washing dishes by hand, don't leave the water running for rinsing
12. Don't let the tap run while you clean vegetables
13. Keep a bottle of drinking water in the fridge.

Garden

1. Plant drought-resistant lawns, shrubs and plants
2. Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants
3. Water your lawn only when it needs it
4. Water during the early parts of the day; avoid watering when it's hot during the day
5. Add organic matter and use efficient watering systems for shrubs, flower beds and lawns
6. Don't run the hose while washing your car
7. Use a broom (or a bucket), not a hose, to clean driveways and tiles
8. Check for leaks in pipes, hoses, faucets and couplings
9. Use grey water for the garden where possible



HOME

SUSTAINABILITY

Electricity Management

Energy management is also an area where households can make a real difference. Less electricity means less fossil fuels burned. The majority of South Africa's energy comes from coal burning power stations, so a small change in electricity use can reflect in the amount of pollution we add to the atmosphere. Participants are required to keep a log of their electricity usage over a three month period to succeed in this area.

Some useful suggestions on how one can save electricity can be found on the Eskom website:

http://www.eskom.co.za/AboutElectricity/ElectricityTips/Pages/Conserving_Electricity.aspx





HOME

SUSTAINABILITY

Reduce, Re-use and Recycle

The most effective way to reduce waste is to not create it in the first place. Making a new product requires a lot of materials and energy - raw materials must be extracted from the earth, and the product must be fabricated then transported to wherever it will be sold. As a result, reduction and reuse are the most effective ways you can save natural resources, protect the environment and save money.

There is a plethora of different ways to reuse the various things which we accumulate in our homes, and how to reduce is fairly self-explanatory. Recycling, however, requires further unpacking.

We are lucky at St Stithians to have a recycling depot on campus behind the boarding house. This facility separates our waste and promotes good waste management in our community.

Participants are required to keep photographic evidence and a logbook of their household waste efforts over a period of three months.





What to recycle and compost?

White Paper

Printer, copier, letterhead, white/off-white notebook; white paper with color print; staples are OK; business envelopes without windows or with window plastic removed. No glossy, waxed or laminated paper. Confidential documents can be shredded by contacting Emory Shredding Services campserv.emory.edu/fm/shredding



Mixed Paper

Colored paper, newspapers, magazines and phone books; cardstock material such as file folders and paper bags; paper-board like cereal and beverage boxes; no waxed, glossy or laminated paper. Waxed paper can be composted and laminated paper can be placed in plastic recycling.



Aluminum

Virtually all metal beverage containers are aluminum. Please **EMPTY CONTENTS**; to test for aluminum it is not attracted to a magnet.



Corrugated cardboard

Remove all packing materials and break down if possible. Please, no waxed cardboard or cardboard soiled by food. Pizza boxes OK if food is removed.



These items co-mingled in some locations across campus (check bin labels)

Plastics & Snack Wrappers

Food and toiletry containers
Coffee stirrers, single use items
Laminated paper

Granola/candy bar/chip
Non-waxed beverage cups
Zip sandwich bags
Single use plastic items

Glass

Includes green, clear, brown and blue glass; No mirrors, window glass, ceramics, pyrex, light bulbs (CFLs are recycled by EHSO)

Steel-Tin

Food cans like soup and tuna fish cans are typically made from steel or tin and can be placed in this stream.



Composting

ALL FOOD WASTE including vegetables, fruit, meat, fish, poultry, processed food, paper, food soiled cardboard including waxed cardboard (milk carton), compostable serviceware, plates, cutlery, and all organic material.

Please--no glass, chip bags, snack wrappers, condiment packs, metal, plastic, Styrofoam, plastic wrap or bags, or foil.



Ink-jet and toner cartridges

Recycling through Flex Imaging or Staples (Emory office product supplier). Request a pick up for these items when placing your order.



E-waste and cell phones

Emory-owned electronics /cell phones are reused or if obsolete, are recycled through Emory Surplus Property. Call Work Management 404.727.7463 for pick up. Includes: cell phones, monitors, hard drives, laptops, mice, cords, anything with a circuit board, microwave ovens, and rechargeable batteries.

Contact Environmental Health and Safety Office 404.727.5922 with questions about battery recycling, CFL/fluorescent bulb recycling, and hazardous/medical waste disposal.



campserv.emory.edu/fm/recycling

IF YOU DON'T KNOW, PLEASE CONTACT US

Deena.Keeler@emory.edu 404.727.9275 Claire.Wall@emory.edu 404.712.8921

EMORY
RECYCLES



sustainability
initiatives



CONSERVATION AWARENESS

Preamble

We are blessed in South Africa to have access to a variety of national and local parks. These range from the world-renowned Kruger National Park to smaller wild spaces such as the Modderfontein Nature Reserve. Each of these places incorporates various conservation initiatives to preserve these environments for future generations. They face numerous challenges such as human encroachment, poaching, alien vegetation, wildlife management issues, etc.

The purpose of this category is to promote an awareness (and hopefully some contribution) in becoming part of the solution for conserving South Africa's "wild spaces". Participants will be required to interview any of the parties who are involved in the management of such spaces. Our reserves require constant management and are often the source of various research projects; it is an enriching experience to be exposed to these initiatives as a member of the public. In addition, conservation needs more of a voice, so your discussions will become part of a wider conversation about preserving our wilderness heritage.





CONSERVATION AWARENESS

Interview Questions

The interview/discussion needs to be done formally and therefore requires some preparation on the participant's part. It is useful to contact the reserve prior to the interview and do some research on the background to the area. This should be included in your overall report which will be handed in to successfully complete this module. The questions below are not compulsory nor do they constitute all that could be discussed. Participants should take the initiative to ask appropriate, insightful and enriching questions which will further their understanding of nature conservation in South Africa.

- What is your biggest challenge in managing the ecology of (name here) and how do you and your staff overcome this challenge?
- Are there any conservation projects that are currently taking place at (name here)? What is the intention and intended impact of this initiative?
- How do you manage the diversity of fauna and flora in this environment? How
- Do you have any green/sustainable initiatives and how are these implemented? What is their impact?
- How do you ensure the longevity of (name here)?
- How can we help as the public to preserve the future of our environments and the various species which inhabit them?
- What are some of the environmental impacts which challenge the reserve and how are these resolved?
- Which species is of least/most concern
- Why do we need to preserve our "wild spaces" such as (name here)?
- What is the status of human/wildlife conflict in the area?





CONSERVATION AWARENESS

Additional Resources

SAN Parks

<https://www.sanparks.org/>

BirdLife South Africa

<https://www.birdlife.org.za/>

Endangered Wildlife Trust

<https://www.ewt.org.za/>

World Wildlife Fund SA

<http://www.wwf.org.za/>

City Parks

<http://www.jhbcityparks.com/>

Dept of Environmental Affairs

<https://www.environment.gov.za>

African Conservation Foundation

<https://africanconservation.org/>

WESSA

<http://wessa.org.za/>





ECOLOGICAL PROJECT

One of the most profoundly fascinating and wonderful experiences is being immersed in the ecology of the wilderness. The interconnections and relationships between different species, flora and fauna is humbling and incredible. We often focus on the big game species but sometimes forget the intricacies involved in the web of life that are able to support such diversity.

The purpose of this project is to enrich the family holidays and visits to favorite national parks (hopefully the same park where the Conservation Awareness was conducted). Having a rich understanding of how different species are able to support and interact with each other in the ultimate goal of supporting life is something that will resonate with everyone.

This project, therefore, should take place with each member of the family accounting for at least one tier of the varied contributors to this ecosystem. The project can be submitted in the form of a presentation with photographic (or collections) of evidence with an analysis of how each chosen species contributes to the environment's ecology.





ECOLOGICAL PROJECT

The following need to form the core of your family's study, however you can include other areas that pique your interest:

- Geology
- Climate
- Plants (trees, shrubs, grasses)
- Arthropods
- Amphibians
- Reptiles
- Birds
- Mammals

If you do not have sightings of the species required in some of these categories, you may include findings based on your research of the area or from a conversation with a game ranger.

In completing this task, please ensure that you adhere to the rules and regulations of the National Park and do not collect anything without the permission of the reserve itself. Photographs are therefore often the best form of evidence as they cause the least impact on the environment.





ECOLOGICAL PROJECT

Additional Resources

Field Guide Association of SA

<http://www.fgasa.co.za/>

A Game Ranger in your Backpack

Megan Emmett

Armchair Courses

<http://www.montybrett.com>

SafariLive

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LTHuuEiB1Kg>

David Attenborough Series

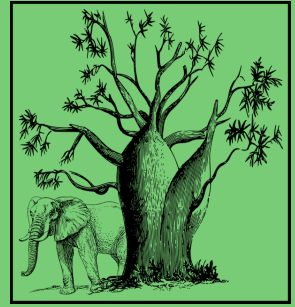
Life

Planet Earth and Planet Earth II

Africa

The Hunt





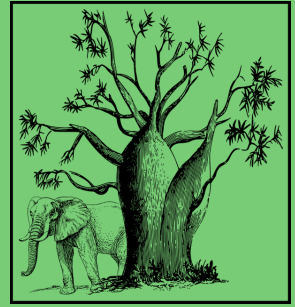
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE

Possibly the most enriching experience is the fulfillment of giving back. There are numerous opportunities in being able to give of our time (and sometimes our effort) in improving our environment. This could be in the form of a local initiative such as clearing the Braamfontein Spruit, removing alien vegetation during one of the Rector's Action Days or volunteering at an animal shelter.

This part of the award (like the others) needs to be completed by the whole family over the course of three months. These hours need to be signed off by the whoever is organising the service activity and you are required to provide an overview of what the activity entailed and its purpose.

The family is required to complete a minimum of 15 hours of service over three months.





DO YOU REQUIRE **SUPPORT**

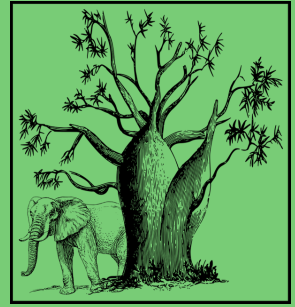
As indicated in the preamble, the value of this award is in creating discussions about preserving our environment and making good green decisions as families, and hopefully as our community. Although it is a minimum of a three month project over a year, we hope that some of what you experience on this exciting journey will resonate in some happy memories and in your lives to come.

You are not alone, and if you require assistance or support, please do not hesitate to contact one of the Environmental/Footprint Representatives in the various schools:

- Junior Prep: Jenny Blamey
- Girl's Prep: Deirdre Harris
- Boys' Prep: Jenny Dryden
- Girls' College: Elana Shaw
- Boys' College: Courtney Watson

You can enroll with any of these staff members (but please choose only one), and can submit material upon completion as a whole or as each section is completed.





THE COSTS

The costs of the Baobab Challenge do not generate a profit, but are used to cover the purchase of a tree that is 100 litres in size, the plaque that will be attached to the tree and the badges that will be given to each member of the family.

This comes to R1000.00 per family (2018/2019 price) and can be payable to:

St Stithians College
The Standard Bank of South Africa Limited
Randburg Branch (Branch code 018005)
Account no. 220059004
Reference Baobab (Family Surname: School Initials)
Proof of payment to cwatson@stithian.com

Once payment has been made, your family will be enrolled in this exciting initiative.

Good luck and have fun!





UPON COMPLETION

Once you have completed all of the tasks and satisfied the criteria for each module, each family member will be awarded a symbolic pin to remind you of the important contribution that your family has made in preserving our South African Environmental Heritage.

In addition (and more importantly) you will plant a tree on the St Stithians Campus which will be a lasting symbol of the journey which you have embarked upon from this point onward.

Please do encourage other friends and family to enroll in this experience. Any queries can be directed to Courtney Watson via email cwatson@stithian.com

If you would like to 'pay it forward' to someone who might not be able to afford to be part of the award, let us know! Likewise, if you would like to set the challenge to another family, you are encouraged to do so.

We look forward to hearing of your adventure in this initiative.





PERSONAL NOTES





PERSONAL NOTES

