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BWW's Young Water Ambassadors Program Shapes Next Generation of Water Stewards

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. - June 29, 2023 – The story of our water, from waterways to faucets, is being told in an immersive and experiential way this summer through the Young Water Ambassadors (YWA) program offered by Birmingham Water Works (BWW). Nearly a hundred high school students from across the service area are taking part in this initiative, delving into the world of water conservation, preservation, and the crucial role water plays in sustaining life.

The four-week-long program is designed to raise awareness about the necessity of protecting our water resources for future generations. The program's primary goal is to ensure that every young participant comprehends and appreciates the importance of water quality, conservation, and the issues surrounding pollution.

"Water is the lifeblood of our communities. This program is more than just a learning experience; it's about instilling in our youth a lifelong commitment to protecting the world's most vital resource," stated Jeremy Ervin, Workforce Development Administrator at Birmingham Water Works.

In this educational journey, YWA participants will traverse various entities across the region, including the Birmingham Zoo, Jefferson County Storm Water, Jones Valley Teaching Farm, Alabama A&M, and more. Through several partnership referrals, YWA also continues its collaboration with Auburn University. These visits will offer them a hands-on understanding of how water is processed and why diverse industries rely on safe, quality water.

The YWA program goes beyond the classroom; it is a platform for students to actively engage with their communities. Through local programs and community events, the young

ambassadors advocate for water conservation and hydration education, emphasizing BWW's footprint.

Additionally, the YWA program encourages students to consider future employment opportunities within BWW and the broader water industry. This initiative strives to inspire students to leverage their voices, passion, and actions to safeguard and sustain water resources for the benefit of all.

"Our Young Water Ambassadors embody a drive to secure a sustainable water future," said Ervin. "This program provides them with a valuable learning experience and helps shape tomorrow's water professionals."

BWW is thrilled by the enthusiasm and commitment these young ambassadors show, who have taken a creed to protect water, recognizing it as the world's most precious resource. Through the YWA program, they are becoming the champions of our water future, underscoring that each person has the power to make a difference.

About Birmingham Water Works:

Founded in 1951, Birmingham Water Works (BWW) serves nearly 770,000 people in Jefferson, Shelby, Blount, St. Clair, and Walker counties. The BWWB operates four filtration plants, a certified testing laboratory, and has more than 4,000 miles of pipe in its distribution network; it ranked among the top five water systems in the United States.