



**GULF SHORES**  
CITY SCHOOLS



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Gulf Shores City Schools, Dune Doctors, and the Gulf State Park will host a Planting for Protection (P4P) event for 185 students to initiate coastal dunes by installing 4,500 native dune-building plants.

In addition to hands-on restoration, the event will also consist of short classes led by Gulf State Park Naturalists and Dune Doctors' Coastal Restoration Experts.

Thirty-nine Gulf Shores High School and 7th-grade students were selected as P4P Mentors to lead 146 elementary students in installing 4,500 native dune-building plants. The P4P Mentors will receive training in plant installation from representatives of Dune Doctors and the Gulf State Park on 02/22 from 12:30pm to 2:15pm. This event follows a lecture series taught by Gulf Shores High School teachers on the native coastal landscape and ecotourism industry of Gulf Shores, AL.

Preserving and protecting our coastal ecosystems is crucial for the health of the Gulf Shores community. The sea oats that line our beaches protect against coastal erosion that can occur during extreme weather events. This habitat is strong enough to stabilize the shoreline, but fragile enough to be damaged by foot and vehicle traffic. Through this event, Gulf Shores students will initiate dunes along the Gulf State Park. The native vegetation will help retain capture and retain wind-blown sand, accelerating the development of new coastal dunes.

Coastal dunes host a vibrant ecosystem and serve as the first line-of-defense against storm surge.

“By planting sea oats, kids develop a sense of ownership over the dune ecosystem and join our efforts in protecting our fragile coastal environment.” – Frederique Beronet, CEO of Dune Doctors

### **About Dune Doctors**

Established in 2000, Dune Doctors is a coastal erosion control firm specializing in planning, constructing, and maintaining native ecosystems and protective landscapes. We restore residential, commercial, and government-owned waterfront properties. Dune Doctors promotes stewardship of coastal ecosystems by encouraging people to regard the natural coastal environment as a valuable asset that must be invested in, cared for, and respected. We plan for the future by educating the next generation of coastal stewards. As part of our corporate commitment, we work with local communities, property associations, and regional learning centers to host Planting for Protection events and workshops about the coastal environment. Follow our social media [@DuneDoctors](#) to view our educational initiative and keep up with our restoration efforts. For more information, visit our [Website](#) or speak with our Coastal Restoration Experts at 866-386-3737.

### **About Gulf State Park**

The Alabama State Parks Division operates and maintains 21 state parks encompassing approximately 48,000 acres of land and water in Alabama. The parks range from Gulf Coast beaches to Appalachian Mountains providing opportunities and facilities from basic day-use activities to resort convention lodging, restaurant and golfing areas. Visit our [Website](#) or call 251-948-7275 to speak with a Park Naturalist.

### **About Gulf Shores City Schools**

Gulf Shores City Schools consist of three schools and one academy - Gulf Shores Elementary School (Grades PreK-5), Gulf Shores Middle School (Grades 6-8), Gulf Shores High School (Grades 9-12), and Gulf Shores Virtual Academy (Grades K-12). The Gulf Shores City Schools set high expectations for students to reach their full potential. Our programs incorporate traditional and innovative instructional strategies based on the latest research, best practices and our core values. Our goal is to incorporate 21st century learning skills into our academic and co-curricular programs, providing coordinated networks of support for our PreK-12 learners, fostering the social-emotional development of students, and building a professional culture of learning for faculty and staff. Visit our [Website](#) for more information.