

Press Release – Immediate

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Volunteer for a Better Sandy Springs Returns April 27, 2019

The 17th annual community-wide service day gives volunteers the opportunity to enhance 17 local nonprofits, public schools and parks

Sandy Springs, Ga. (March 26, 2019): If you are looking for a wonderful way to serve your community while getting to know your neighbors, then the upcoming Volunteer for a Better Sandy Springs (VBSS) day of community service is for you. Sponsored by Leadership Sandy Springs (LSS), VBSS will be held from 8am-1pm on Saturday, April 27, and is open to all. Volunteers can choose from a variety of projects at 17 Sandy Springs' sites including nonprofits, parks and public schools.

According to VBSS co-chair and LSS board member Jason Lina, "Volunteers should register at vbss2019.eventbrite.com to select their site and see the scope of work for the projects. Children are welcome; and thanks to our sponsors and site partners, we're able to provide all the tools and supplies. It's a special day for families and our community." he added.

Over the past 17 years, Leadership Sandy Springs estimates over 3,300 volunteers have contributed over \$700,000 worth of improvements to more than 30 sites across Sandy Springs. It's become a big undertaking and one Lina and his committee began planning for last August.

"Leadership Sandy Springs is proud to help make it happen but we couldn't do it without all our community volunteers and sponsors," he said. "We're excited that so many people and places benefit from the efforts - it's what creating community is all about and it's central to why LSS does what we do."

This year the committee has worked especially hard to coordinate the projects at Lake Forest Elementary School and Sandy Springs Charter Middle School. Lake Forest begins phase 2 of a STEAM- focused

outdoor classroom sponsored by Mercedes-Benz, which began last year when more than 75 VBSS and Mercedes-Benz volunteers installed a butterfly garden and raised garden beds. This year, parents and volunteers will add tree trunk stepping “stones” in the shape of a naturally occurring mathematical spiral known as a *Fibonacci*, along with a weather station.

At Sandy Springs Middle School, VBSS will mark phase 1 of the school’s plans to refurbish an outdoor classroom, install raised garden boxes and butterfly pollinator garden and begin creating an outdoor STEAM classroom. Comcast sponsors this project and parents, VBSS and Comcast volunteers will work side-by-side to make the school’s dream a reality.

Other sites slated for landscaping, general clean up and enhancements include: Abernathy Arts Center, Big Trees Forest Preserve, Community Assistance Center, Crooked Creek Park, Every Woman Works, Hammond Park, Heritage Sandy Springs, Keep North Fulton Beautiful, Lost Corner Preserve, Overlook Park, North Springs Charter High School, Ridgeview Charter Middle School, Ridgeview Park, Riverwood International Charter High School and Woodland Charter Elementary School.

VBSS will kick off at 8am, rain or shine, at North Springs Charter High School, 7447 Roswell Road. Breakfast will be provided along with colorful VBSS T-shirts to the first 400 registered participants. After a welcome and thank you on behalf of the City by Mayor Rusty Paul, volunteers will disperse to their sites.

2019 presenting sponsors include Comcast, Mercedes-Benz, Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Metro Brokers and Kaiser Permanente.

For more information visit the website at www.leadershipsandyspring.org or email vbss@leadershipsandysprings.org. Membership in LSS is not required to participate. //

Leadership Sandy Springs develops, educates and connects leaders through community engagement, innovative programs and volunteer opportunities to enrich a vibrant Sandy Springs and Central Perimeter area.

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