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Atlanta Falcons Kick Off NFL Flag Football Week With 159-County Initiative

To celebrate NFL Flag Football Week in Georgia, today the Atlanta Falcons Youth Foundation is unveiling flag football equipment donations to elementary and middle schools in every one of the state's 159 counties.

Through the new initiative, Rise Up! 159, the Falcons are donating NFL Flag Football kits for use in P.E. classes at 80 elementary schools and 79 middle schools. The kits include 50 flag belts and Falcons NFL Flag reversible jerseys, footballs, water bottles, T-shirts and other supplies.

During 2017-18, P.E. teachers at the 159 schools will use NFL Flag Football curricula to increase the time children spend in physical activity. The initiative will reach more than 30,00 boys and girls in Georgia schools.

"Rise Up! 159 brings children from every Georgia county into the Falcons family" said Mark Simmons, an Atlanta Falcons associate and part of the staff team that reviews and awards grants. "NFL Flag Football elevates the fun factor for P.E. classes, and that means more children will spend more time in physical activity."

To implement Rise Up! 159, the Falcons are partnering with Georgia Shape, Gov. Deal's statewide initiative that brings together governmental, philanthropic, academic and business communities to address childhood obesity.

In the official proclamation designating the week of August 21 as NFL Flag Football Week in Georgia, Gov. Deal recognized that NFL Flag Football participation has increased 19 percent annually since 2011, and over the past two years the Falcons have trained 400 P.E. teachers in 9 school districts to implement the NFL Flag Football curriculum.

"Rise Up! 159 is a game-changer," said **J. Patrick O'Neal, M.D., commissioner of the Georgia Department of Public Health**, which administers Georgia Shape. "Increased physical activity results in fewer disciplinary incidents, teachers see more instructional time, and students are better prepared to learn."

A new web site, www.RiseUp159.org, includes a map with information about the 159 school partners as well as future funding opportunities.

Rise Up! 159 Partner Schools, by County

County	School Name
Appling	Appling County Middle School
Atkinson	Atkinson County Middle School
Bacon	JoAnna Milton Elementary
Baker	Baker County Middle School
Baldwin	Oak Hill Middle School
Banks	Banks County Middle School
Barrow	Statham Elementary
Bartow	Adairsville Elementary
Ben Hill	Ben Hill Middle School
Berrien	Berrien County Middle School
Bibb	Springdale Elementary
Bleckley	Bleckley County Middle School
Brantley	Brantley County Middle School
Brooks	Brooks County Middle School
Bryan	Bryan County Middle School
Bulloch	Stilson Elementary
Burke	Blakeney Elementary
Butts	Henderson Middle School
Calhoun	Calhoun County Elementary
Camden	Camden Middle School
Candler	Metter Middle School
Carroll	Whitesburg Elementary
Catoosa	Heritage Middle School
Charlton	Folkston Elementary School
Chatham	Pooler Elementary
	Chattahoochee County Education Center
Chattahoochee	Elementary
Chattooga	Menlo Elementary
Cherokee	Sixes Elementary
Clarke	Gaines Elementary
Clay	Clay County Elementary
Clayton	Jonesboro Middle School
Clinch	Clinch County Elementary
Cobb	Eastvalley Elementary
Coffee	Satilla Elementary
Colquitt	Norman Park Elementary
Columbia	Harlem Middle School
Cook	Cook Elementary
Coweta	Madras Middle School

Crawford	Crawford County Elementary
Crisp	Crisp County Middle School
Dade	Dade Elementary
Dawson	Dawson County Middle School
Decatur	Hutto Middle School
DeKalb	Henderson Middle School
Dodge	Dodge County Middle School
Dooly	Dooly County Middle School
Dougherty	Merry Acres Middle School
Douglas	Fairplay Middle School
Early	Early County Middle School
Echols	Echols County Elementary-Middle School
Effingham	Effingham County Middle School
Elbert	Elbert Co Middle School
Emanuel	Twin City Elementary
Evans	Claxton Middle School
Fannin	Blue Ridge Elementary
Fayette County	Rising Starr Middle School
Floyd	Johnson Elementary
Forsyth	Shiloh Point Elementary
Franklin	Franklin County Middle School
Fulton	Campbell Elementary
Gilmer	Clear Creek Middle School
Glascock	Glascock County School
Glynn	Burroughs-Molette Elementary
Gordon	Tolbert Elementary
Grady	Washington Middle School
Greene	Greensboro Elementary School
Gwinnett	Couch Middle School
Habersham	South Habersham Middle School
Hall	North Hall Middle
Hancock	M. E. Lewis Sr. Elementary
Haralson	Buchanan Elementary
Harris	New Mountain Hill Elementary
Hart	South Hart Elementary
Heard	Heard County Elementary
Henry	Henry County Middle School
Houston	C.B. Watson Primary
Irwin	Irwin County Middle School
Jackson	North Jackson Elementary
Jasper	Jasper County Middle School
Jeff Davis	Jeff Davis Middle School
Jefferson	Wrens Middle School
Jenkins	Jenkins County Elementary

Johnson	Johnson County Middle School
Jones	Clifton Ridge Middle School
Lamar	Lamar County Elementary
Lanier	Lanier County Elementary
Laurens	West Laurens Middle School
Lee	Twin Oaks Elementary
Liberty	Midway Middle School
Lincoln	Lincoln County Middle School
Long	Long County Middle School
Lowndes County	Hahira Middle School
Lumpkin	Long Branch Elementary
Macon	Macon County Middle
Madison	Colbert Elementary
Marion	LK Moss Elementary
McDuffie County	Thomson Elementary
McIntosh	McIntosh County Middle School
Meriwether	Manchester Middle School
Miller County	Miller County Middle High School
Mitchell	Mitchell County Primary School
Monroe	Monroe County Middle School
Montgomery	Montgomery County Elementary
Morgan County	Morgan County Middle School
Murray	Bagley Middle School
Muscogee	Clubview Elementary
Newton	Liberty Middle School
Oconee	Malcom Bridge Middle School
Oglethorpe	Oglethorpe County Middle School
Paulding	Roland Russom Elementary
Peach	Kay Road Elementary
Pickens	Jasper Elementary School
Pierce	Pierce County Middle School
Pike County	Pike County Middle School
Polk	Rockmart Middle School
Pulaski County	Pulaski Elementary
Putnam	Putnam County Elementary
Quitman	Quitman City Schools
Rabun	Rabun County Elementary
Randolph	Randolph County Elementary
Richmond	A. Brian Merry Elementary
Rockdale	C. J. Hicks Elementary
Schley	Schley County Elementary
Screven County	Screven County Elementary
Seminole	Seminole Co Elementary
Spalding	Cowan Road Middle School

Stephens	Toccoa Elementary
Stewart	Stewart County Elementary
Sumter	Sumter County Intermediate School
Talbot	Central Elem/High School
Taliaferro	Taliaferro County Elementary
Tattnell	Reidsville Middle School
Taylor	Taylor County Middle School
Telfair County	Telfair County Middle School
Terrell	Terrell Middle School
Thomas	Thomas County Middle School
Tift	Eighth Street Middle School
Toombs	Toombs Central Elementary School
Towns	Towns County Elementary
Treutlen	Treutlen Elementary School
Troup	Ethel Kight Elementary
Turner	Turner County Elementary
Twiggs County	Jeffersonville Elementary
Union	Union County Middle School
Upton	Upton Lee Middle School
Walker	Saddle Ridge Elementary & Middle School
Walton	Atha Road Elementary
Ware	Ruskin Elementary
Warren	Briarwood Academy
Washington	T. J. Elder Middle School
Wayne	Jesup Elementary
Webster County	Webster County School
Wheeler	Wheeler County Elementary
White	Mossy Creek Elementary
Whitfield	North Whitfield Middle School
Wilcox	Wilcox County Elementary
Wilkes	Washington Wilkes Middle School
Wilkinson	Wilkinson County Middle School
Worth	Worth County Middle School

About The Atlanta Falcons Youth Foundation

Investing across Georgia, the Atlanta Falcons Youth Foundation helps nonprofit organizations reduce childhood obesity and improve youth fitness. The foundation was established in 1985 to serve as the philanthropic arm of the Atlanta Falcons. Since Arthur Blank acquired the Atlanta Falcons in 2002, the foundation has grown to be the largest owner-funded foundation in the National Football League, providing more than \$20 million in grants to nonprofit organizations across the state of Georgia. For more information, visit www.AFYF.org.