

Biographical Information for White House Conference on Teens

Amy Swisher works with Hemmings Motor News as Communications Coordinator for the First Day Foundation in Bennington, Vermont. Founded and funded by Hemmings Motor News, the Foundation's purpose is to promote the First Day of School "Holiday" initiative which was launched by Hemmings and the Bennington community in 1997 and has since been adopted by nearly 400 schools in 35 states. The First Day Campaign is aiming for 2000 participating schools for First Day of School 2000.

The First Day of School Holiday is a simple and effective way to encourage greater parental involvement in education, starting on day one each year -- from kindergarten through high school. Through her newsletter stories, group presentations and workshops, Amy shares the First Day Firsthand accounts she has gathered from participating schools to illustrate the positive impact this "Holiday" has had on parent/teacher and school/community relationships.

In addition to her work with First Day, Amy is an experienced group facilitator who leads a self-advocacy course for teens at the high school in Bennington. She writes a monthly teen issues column for the local newspaper in which she integrates the perspectives and insights the students have discussed in class. And she is the mother, guide and friend of two strong and open-minded teens.