

Teaching Science Outdoors: Protecting MI Water Mini-grant

Mini-grants are due to Kara Haas during the summer of 2016

I. **How much?** No more than \$5000 per district. Sub-grants will be available to each school district (the local education agency, eligible applicant) that participates. A total of \$22,750 will be available for these awards and teachers will be required to submit budgets not to exceed \$5000/school district.

II. What can the grant funds be used for?

A. Sub-grants from this project will be used to develop and implement plans by the teachers to (1) enhance their schoolyards as outdoor classrooms; (2) expand their students' knowledge of water resources in the area; (3) develop outdoor classroom activities in their schoolyard or (4) field trips to local parks, preserves or similar venues with aquatic habitats to conduct environmental education type learning activities; (5) materials or supplies to develop lessons about water to be conducted in the schoolyard; (6) to support a community project to develop habitat in the schoolyard

B. If possible, keep these program focus and goals in mind:

The special focus of our overarching EPA grant is on EPA environmental priority #4: *Protecting Water: A Precious, Limited Resource*. We will show how important watersheds are to the assuring healthy drinking water and sustaining aquatic ecosystems so they can provide habitats for fish, plants, and wildlife, enhance human health and provide recreation.

Mini-grants will hopefully move us toward achieving one of the big goals of the Teaching Science Outdoors project: By increasing the ability of teachers to integrate environmental education with science education and by providing the resources and support to identify and carry out changes in their schoolyard, this project will increase environmental literacy and encourage behavior that benefits the water quality and increases environmental stewardship of the local watershed by students and community members around local elementary schools in southwest Michigan. Involve the local community, students and parents in your project.

III. How to apply?

A. Format: Submit a video (5-10 minutes?), powerpoint presentation (5-10 minutes?) OR a written narrative (5 pages) describing your project.

B. Include:

1. Project Title
2. Brief description of the project
3. Amount of money requested
4. Project lead and members of the team
 - a) Project lead's name, email, phone, School, District, School's mailing address

- b) Administrator’s name, email and phone
 - c) Accountant/office manager’s name, email and phone
- 5. Who will be impacted by this project?
- 6. Detailed project plan and timeline (a step-by-step description of what you will do and when you will do it) (1 page max, 750 words)
- 7. Resources used (what resources will you use to plan and carry out your project? Include partners you plan to work with)
 - a) How will you involve parents and community members in developing and carrying out your plans?
 - b) Which local organizational partners have you connected with or might you connect with to help you develop and carry out your plans?
 - c) In what ways can your partners help or participate?
- 8. Student and Community impact (how will your project impact students and your community?)
- C. Draft a letter/email to administrators and parents explaining the project
- D. **Budget** (please use the chart below for formatting your budget)

Budget Category - description	\$
Personnel	
Materials and Supplies	
Travel	
Other Direct Costs	
TOTAL	

- E. **Evaluation/report:** Take pictures or videos! You will report out during a monthly webinar or during a KBS K-12 Partnership workshop (within a year of implementing your mini-grant). The report should outline the goals of the project and what the results/outcomes have been.
- F. A letter of support from your principal or school administrator (can be an email to Kara Haas)

IV. How will grants be reviewed?

- A. Proposals will be submitted as videos, powerpoints or narratives (pdf) and uploaded to the shared google folder. The project team leaders and KNC staff will review proposals and evaluate how well each proposal promotes the use of the outdoors as a classroom and a greater understanding of the water cycle.

- V. **Implementation:** Once your grant is approved a check will be sent to your district. Kara Haas, program coordinator, will be available to support teachers in implementing their sub-grant in collaboration with the district administration.

VI. Notes:

- A. Consider using these funds to leverage more dollars from your PTO or local foundation. If you have an idea that is beyond the \$5000, look for other local funding to match with these dollars.

- B. On Twitter or Facebook, use these hashtags to keep us updated on your work!

#KBSoutreach

#KBSsummer

#KBSK12