

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2010 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

LCCMR ID: 171-F

Project Title:

Minnesota's Changing Climate: Engaging Students through Adventure Learning

LCCMR 2010 Funding Priority:

F. Environmental Education

Total Project Budget: \$ \$250,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 years, 2010 - 2013

Other Non-State Funds: \$ \$33,000

Summary:

Minnesotas Changing Climate investigates connections between ecosystems, resources and climate, while weaving Will Steger's adventures into curriculum and training, and providing leadership opportunities and funding for schools across the state.

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Sponsoring Organization: Will Steger Foundation

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Location:

Region: Statewide

County Name: Statewide

City / Township:

_____ Knowledge Base	_____ Broad App.	_____ Innovation
_____ Leverage	_____ Outcomes	
_____ Partnerships	_____ Urgency	_____ TOTAL

2010 LCCMR MAIN PROPOSAL – WILL STEGER FOUNDATION

PROJECT TITLE: Minnesota's Changing Climate: Engaging Students through Adventure Learning

PROJECT SUMMARY: Minnesota's Changing Climate investigates connections between ecosystems, resources and climate, while weaving Will Steger's adventures into curriculum and training, and providing leadership opportunities and funding for schools across the state.

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The overarching goal of Minnesota's Changing Climate is to build awareness and interest in Minnesota's natural environment and the impact of climate change, and to provide educators and students with the tools necessary for active and life-long stewardship.

Scientists have documented that climate change is already impacting Minnesota ecosystems. The solution relies not only in radically changing the way we create and use energy, but also in how we prepare the next generation to both care for our natural environment and actively work to protecting it. In order to engage people in climate change solutions, we must start by fostering a sense of connection to Minnesota's ecosystems and then build an understanding of the immediate and long-term impacts of climate change.

Research shows that education on climate change bolsters personal behavior change such as:

- improved energy conservation
- improved consumer decisions/environmentally friendly purchases

Schools are well suited for thorough investigation on this complicated subject because educators can devote time to teach underlying social, economic and scientific principles of climate change and provide detailed information on ways to address the problem of climate change and mitigate its impact. To get there, we need engaging curriculum and focus on educator pre-service and in-service training.

The Will Steger Foundation, in partnership with academic and civic partners, will meet this need by developing and implementing an adventure learning climate change education program, which ties Will Steger's adventures in Minnesota's diverse ecosystems with engaging content on Minnesota's natural environment and the impacts of climate change. The program will support student-led climate change adaptation projects in an ecosystem of their choice in Minnesota. The program will result in increased stewardship of Minnesota's environment, an understanding of climate change impacts in Minnesota, and meaningful student and community engagement.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

Result 1: Minnesota's Changing Climate Adventure Learning Curriculum for Grades 3-12

Budget: \$56,000

Deliverable

Completion Date

1. Grades 3-12 Minnesota's Changing Climate Curriculum

12/2010

- Multidisciplinary curriculum on Minnesota's diverse ecosystems (boreal forest, Lake Superior, Mississippi River, prairie, and urban areas), the impacts of climate change, and student-led action projects
- Aligned to MN standards

This program will reach 10,000 students in grades 3-12 throughout Minnesota schools.

Result 2: Summer Institutes for Educators on Climate Change Education **Budget:** \$98,000

Deliverable	Completion Date
1. Summer Institute professional development workshop for 100 educators in-person and an unlimited number via webinar – announcement of program and opportunity	8/2010
2. Summer Institute workshop– unveil entire program, including curriculum	8/2011
3. Summer Institute workshop – share successes and evaluation	8/2012

This will impact 300+ educators across Minnesota through in-service training over three years.

Result 3: Online-interactive Adventure Learning Classroom **Budget:** \$82,000

Deliverable	Completion Date
1. Review Will Steger’s archive journals and select up to 10 adventure stories including images, journals and videos	12/2010
2. Develop interactive, online program in conjunction with the curriculum	12/2010

The program will also reach an additional 25,000 visitors via the Will Steger Foundation website through cross-promotion with partners and educational associations.

Result 4: School grants for student action projects focusing on a climate adaptation strategy for a particular MN ecosystem **Budget:** \$ 14,000

Deliverable	Completion Date
1. Up to eight mini-grants to schools piloting adaptation action projects - \$500 each	5/2011
2. Up to ten grants to schools for adaptation action projects - \$1,000 each	5/2012

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

Curriculum Development: National Education Association/Education Minnesota, St. Paul Public Schools, Minnesota Historical Society True North: Mapping Minnesota’s History
 Professional Development: National Education Association/Education Minnesota, St. Paul Public Schools, University of Minnesota, Science Museum of Minnesota
 Online interactive classroom: Minnesota Historical Society, Minnesota History Center

B. Timeline Requirements

July – December 2010: Research and select archived adventure stories, develop curriculum, multi-media tools and evaluation strategies, and announce mini-grant opportunity
 January 2011: Launch curriculum with academic partners and distribute mini-grants
 April 2011: Schools implement pilot adaptation projects with mini-grants
 August 2011: Professional development – Summer Institute, unveil full program
 September-December 2011: Announce large grant opportunity
 April 2012: Schools implement adaptation projects with large grants
 August 2012: Final Summer Institute, share action stories, evaluation and feedback

C. Long-Term Strategy

Minnesota’s Changing Climate is part of a suite of climate change education programming the Will Steger Foundation has pioneered and will continue to develop as a core component of the organization’s ten-year strategic plan. This program fills a critical need, while also adding value to existing resources, and will be featured in perpetuity on the Foundation’s website. Future financial support from diverse revenue sources will sustain this program. To date, the Foundation has created four climate change curricula, endorsed by the National Education Association, Union of Concerned Scientists and National Geographic, reaching thousands of educators nationwide. The Will Steger Foundation is committed to delivering relevant and factual climate change content and tools for action to empower student leadership in the mainstream classroom.

Project Budget

IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET - 3 Years, July 1, 2010-June 30, 2013

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	
Personnel:	\$	-
Education Program Manager - Curriculum Outreach & Summer Institute development, intern supervision and grant award distribution (1/3 of FT salary and Curriculum Development & Standards Alignment (includes graphic design)	\$	50,500.00
	\$	38,600.00
Contracts:	\$	-
Web Development/Web Support (creating online interactive classroom, uploading archived stories and curriculum features; adding multi-media videos and audio features)	\$	38,330.00
Summer Institute Coordinator (2 years)	\$	18,200.00
Interns - Summer Institutes (2) and (1) for archive research and integration into curriculum/website use	\$	6,000.00
Adventure Story/Archive Support - Interviewing and selecting up to 10 stories from archived journals, images, and video library	\$	6,230.00
Media outreach/press support	\$	9,500.00
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$	-
Printing of Curriculum/Binder (\$75/each x 300 educators)	\$	22,500.00
Web software/online technology for online classroom/Webinar support for Summer Institute	\$	12,500.00
Summer Institute educator packets (agenda/folder of materials and resources x 100 teachers x 3 insitutes)	\$	5,500.00
Travel:	\$	-
Travel for outreach/school presentations and grant visits (500 miles x 0.55/mi) over 3 years	\$	3,550.00
Summer Institute travel (includes staff, program, keynote speaker travel)	\$	9,500.00
Additional Budget Items:	\$	-
Summer Institute Facility Cost (includes AV/tech, personnnel support and facility rental) (3 years)	\$	12,390.00
Outreach/advertising	\$	2,700.00
School grants	\$	14,000.00
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR	\$	250,000.00
V. OTHER FUNDS		
<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:	\$	-
		<i>Indicate: Secured</i>
National Education Association Education Program Support	\$	18,000
St Paul Public Schools Summer Institute Support	\$	15,000
		<i>Secured</i>
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:	\$	-
		<i>None</i>
In-kind Services During Project Period:	\$	-
Summer Institute meals and snacks	\$	5,300
Summer Institute Facility in-kind staff support	\$	4,100
WSF Climate Change Existing curriculum support	\$	50,000
St. Paul Public Schools Laptop and Technology Equipment	\$	10,000
Media Development/Mult-media videos and images	\$	15,000
Online/interactive web features	\$	7,500
MN Historical Society - True North Resources	\$	16,250
Existing educator network and partnerships with associations	\$	5,000
Remaining \$ from Current Trust Fund Appropriation (if applicable):		<i>N/A</i>
Total in-kind	\$	146,150

Will Steger Foundation Overview

The Will Steger Foundation is dedicated to creating programs that foster international cooperation and leadership through environmental education and policy. We are educating, inspiring, and empowering people of all ages to take action to solve our climate crisis. We work with educators (K-12) by developing and supporting them with curriculum, professional development opportunities, and action resources. We work directly with high school and college youth to support student leadership on climate change solutions. We have worked collaboratively with local, state, and national decision-makers to craft sound energy policy and engage citizens across Minnesota and the Midwest. Our programs provide authentic eyewitness accounts of climate change and a platform for furthering education, discussion and civic engagement, offering unique opportunities for public interaction.

Project Manager Qualifications

Nicole Rom is the Executive Director of the Will Steger Foundation (WSF). For almost three years Rom has been leading WSF, a nonprofit organization dedicated to climate change education, solutions and action. As the Executive Director, Rom has built and sustained this organization and its million-dollar budget. Rom has provided visioning, strategic planning, and development activities for the organization and its educational and policy programs. Rom manages five full-time staff, seasonal interns and volunteers. Rom has designed and supported the execution of K-12 climate change education programs, including instructing graduate courses, planning annual Summer Institutes for educators, and supervising curriculum development and educational programming. Rom has coordinated sub-contracts and collaborations with major partners and sponsors, working to maximize effectiveness and synergy among key constituent organizations of the Foundation. Rom secured government support from the Norwegian government, the US Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Prior to working for WSF, Rom managed the education programs for the National Wildlife Federation's Great Lakes office in Ann Arbor, MI, where she developed and directed educational programming in the Midwest. She managed the Great Outdoors Leadership Grant Program partnership with three diverse non-profit organizations in the Metropolitan Detroit area to promote family outdoor education, executed residential outdoor and environmental programming for Detroit teens, and reviewed curricula, including educational material for the major motion picture HOOT and Great Lakes in My World.

Rom also has experience teaching undergraduate and graduate level courses in environmental psychology, environmental education, and communicating climate change in the classroom at the University of Michigan and Hamline University. Rom served as an Environmental Educator with the US Peace Corps in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Rom received her M.S. in Environmental Policy and Education from the School of Natural Resources & Environment at the University of Michigan and a B.A. in Environmental Studies with a minor in Education from Bates College in Maine.

