

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

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**LCCMR ID: 183-F**

**Project Title:**

Outdoor Education for Schools and Neighborhoods

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**LCCMR 2010 Funding Priority:**

F. Environmental Education

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**Total Project Budget: \$** \$258,012

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

**Other Non-State Funds: \$** \$0

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**Summary:**

Increase frequency of outdoor education opportunities for K-12 children in schools and neighborhoods using experiential activities, including dog sledding, draft horse driving, kayaking, rock climbing and renewable energy education.

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**Location:**

**Region:** NE

**County Name:** Carlton, Lake, St. Louis

**City / Township:** Duluth, Cloquet, Two Harbors, Virginia and outlying region

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

# MAIN PROPOSAL

## PROJECT TITLE: Outdoor Education for Schools and Neighborhoods

### I. PROJECT STATEMENT

**Opportunity:** Grant support will allow more young people to make lasting, positive connections with the natural world. The project will increase opportunities for children in grades K-12 to participate in outdoor activities and exploration of environmental issues on a more frequent basis, in their own backyard, and without the need of fundraising to participate.

**Challenges:** Budget cuts and a weak economy have shrunk outdoor activities for youth in many communities. There is also a lack of community-based activity providers with a developmentally appropriate approach for teaching children, youth-sized equipment and proper risk management skills and experience to facilitate outdoor adventure activities.

**Goals:** Increase access to outdoor education (outdoor life skills, environmental education, and positive social interaction) for youth in Northeastern Minnesota. (Carlton, South St. Louis and Lake Counties) Two programs per week (72 programs/year), ranging from 2 hours to a full day, will be divided among participating schools or youth organizations, serving at least 2,000 children each year for three years.

**Issues:** Recent research shows that high quality programming and activities for youth increases developmental outcomes in all areas, including skills needed to succeed in school, life and the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce. Increased access to high quality neighborhood outdoor education reinforces and complements existing environmental education efforts. Participants are more likely to be engaged in issues and efforts relating to our natural world, including outdoor recreation, and efforts to combat climate change. The reduction in unstructured outdoor play and increased disconnection from our natural world poses threats to environmental awareness and literacy, and ultimately the needed citizen support for efforts to maintain environmental quality, habitats, and help ensure sound resource management for future generations.

**Project Need:** While local nature and Environmental Learning Centers offer youth high quality opportunities to explore environmental issues and participate in outdoor activities, these visits may happen only once during K-12 school years. Not all communities or neighborhoods in our target areas have access to smaller parks and nature centers and not all schools have environmental curriculums. On average, youth spend more than 44.5 hours each week in front of television, computer, cell phone and video game screens. Recreation centers and youth agencies that we have served are closing and fewer grant options mean more and more after school sites are struggling to keep the doors open. Positive Energy Outdoor (ed)Ventures offers innovative, high quality, environmental and outdoor education activities that help youth make lasting positive connections with the natural world.

### II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

#### **Result 1: Our Forests: Past, Present and Future (up to 16 programs/yr: Budget \$17,536/yr x 3 yrs)**

At school or field trip experience with classes rotating between stations – draft horses, logging tools, tree identification, exotic insects and plants and other threats to our forests

Deliverables:

1. Increased awareness and interest in forests
2. How to identify trees and use of map and compass
3. Appreciation of Logging History – hands on and demonstration – live draft horses and old logging tools activities
4. Learn about threats to our forests – exotics, climate change

#### **Result 2: Winter Travel (up to 28 programs yr: Budget \$34,440/yr x 3 yrs)**

Outdoor experience highlighting traditional and modern human and animal powered winter travel.

Winter sampler after school outing field trip—dog sledding, skijoring demo, draft horse driving/sleigh ride, snowshoeing, winter camping/travel/survival. Groups rotate between the 5 stations. Prior to field trip, we visit their site with sled dog and winter clothing activity.

Deliverables:

1. participate in and learn basics of human and animal powered winter travel
2. explore why of human and animal power in winter (fun, exercise, way to winter camp, access/connection, competition, history, career)
3. recognize the impact of climate change on winter in MN
4. experience the positive social aspects of human and animal powered travel

**Result 3: Renewable Energy In Action (up to 8 programs/yr: Budget \$8,768/yr x 3 yrs)**

Solar and wind energy experiments and exploration, including cooking in a solar oven, understanding terminology/electricity 101, hybrid cars, and the use of renewable energy in a Northeast Minnesota home. Field trip or at school. 4 stations

Deliverables:

1. understanding of renewable energy wind and solar and its practical application – home power
2. learn how to build and use a manufactured or home built solar oven
3. transfer lessons to their home and school – conservation steps
4. Understanding of issues surrounding electricity generation and where our current power mix comes from, and the effect on our environment

**Result 4: Lake Superior watershed and landscapes (up to 20 programs/yr: Budget \$25,260/yr x 3 yrs)**

Connecting kayaks and or rock climbing to our waters, soils and landscape we rely on each day. Topics and lessons: soils, erosion, Leave No Trace, water cycle, watershed, minimizing our water usage and impacts. Two different days - On water or on trails/rocks near Duluth.

Deliverables:

1. students will learn about ecology, geology, limnology, and history and future of our lakes and landscapes
2. understanding of human impact and techniques to minimize
3. participate in and learn safety and basic techniques with kayaking and or rock climbing
4. discover additional ways to recreate – and connections to fishing, camping, travel

### **III. PROJECT STRATEGY**

#### **A. Project Team/Partners**

The project team is led by Positive Energy Outdoor (ed)Ventures: Program Directors Blake Cazier and Stephanie Love will lead outdoor adventure activities with the help of one Program Staff, one Seasonal Intern and volunteers from the University of Minnesota Duluth and The College of St. Scholastica in Duluth. Program Partners include elementary, middle and high schools and youth serving organizations in South St. Louis County: Duluth, Hermantown, Proctor; Lake County: Two Harbors, Silver Bay/Beaver Bay; Carlton County: Cloquet, Carlton, Wrenshall, Esko, and Fond du Lac Ojibwe School. These program partners will provide students, adult staff or volunteers and transportation to and from field trip activities.

#### **B. Timeline Requirements**

The project timeline spans three years, with activities carried out according to appropriate time of year.

#### **C. Long-Term Strategy**

Environmental and outdoor education efforts are long term projects that require the continued investment of communities, schools, not-for-profit organizations and public-private partnerships. Program fees and support from PTAs, schools and community members who support quality opportunities and activities for children will help continue these programs after grant funds have been expended.

## Project Budget

### INSTRUCTIONS AND TEMPLATE (1 PAGE LIMIT)

*Attach budget, in MS-EXCEL format, to your "2010 LCCMR Proposal Submit Form".*

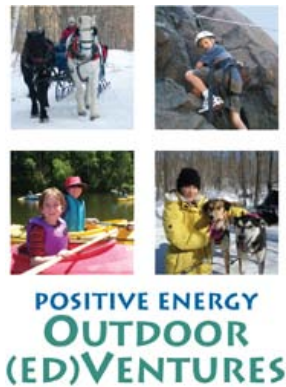
*(1-page limit, single-sided, 11 pt. font minimum. Retain bold text and delete all instructions typed in italics. **Add or delete rows as necessary.** If a category is not applicable you may write "N/A", leave it blank, or delete the row.)*

#### IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET (3 years)

<b>BUDGET ITEM</b> <i>(See list of Eligible &amp; Non-Eligible Costs, p. 13)</i>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>Personnel: One</b> Program Staff (72 programs @ 8 hours/program @ \$15/hour x 576 hours = \$8,640 (.29 FTE); \$2,160 (25% of .29FTE) toward benefits = \$10,800 x 3 years; year round position.	\$32,400
Two Program Directors (72 programs @ 8 hours/program @ \$30/hour x 1152 hours = \$34,560 (.29FTE); \$8,640 50% (25% of .29FTE) toward benefits = 43,200 x 3	\$129,600
Two Seasonal Interns (72 programs @ 8 hours/program @ \$8/hour = \$4,608 (.29FTE) toward salary. \$1,152 (25% of .29FTE) toward benefits = \$5,760 x 3	\$ 17,280
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: Dog Sledding, kayaking, rock climbing, draft horse equipment, renewable energy education materials and supplies @ up to \$200/program x 72 programs = \$14,440 x 3 years	\$ 43,200
<b>Travel:</b> Bus Stipend for schools and organizations participating in programming, up to \$200/program x 48 programs per year = \$9,600/year x 3 years = \$28,800; mileage for hauling horses to schools @ current standard mileage rate of \$.550 (up to 120 miles per program x 16 programs) = \$1,056/year x 3 years = \$3,168; mileage for car travel to schools and climbing sites @ current standard mileage rate of \$.550/mile (up to 120 miles/program x 18 programs) = \$1,188/year x 3 years = \$3564.	\$35,532.00
<b>TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR</b>	\$258,012

#### V. OTHER FUNDS

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Positive Energy Outdoor (ed)Ventures: \$9,630 per year for additional dog sledding/draft horse supplies, including daily care; \$16,432 per year for insurance, rent and other taxes.</b>	\$ 78,136	Secured
<b>In-kind Services During Project Period:</b> Special trailer and truck for transportation of animals at \$2/mile x 1,920 miles x 3 years	\$ 11,520	Secured



Positive Energy Outdoor (ed)Ventures, a Duluth-based 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, *encourages people and animal powered exploration of the outdoors. Our programs emphasize teamwork, healthy risk taking, and positive communication, creating learning opportunities that can lead to a lifetime of active adventures.*

Guided by our mission, we work with existing organizations to strengthen services and programming through:

**Team Building:** Creating increased opportunities for youth to work cooperatively with peers, family, community and positive adult mentors through interesting and challenging activities that set high expectations for participants

**Access:** Providing unique physical activities that not all families, organizations or schools can provide or afford

**Experiential Learning:** Offering meaningful participation in activities through a participatory learning approach that promotes interpersonal skills, life skills, healthy choices and positive risk taking among participants

**Leadership Development:** Connecting young people to the greater community by creating opportunities for leadership development through participation in service projects and community events

Positive Energy Outdoor (ed)Ventures is a year-round outdoor program serving youth organizations, schools, families and adults. The organization offers expert-led outdoor adventure programming. Together, Positive Energy Program Directors Stephanie Love, MS Experiential Education, and Blake Cazier, BAS Teaching Earth Science/Outdoor Education, have over 30 years of experience as outdoor educators and are the co-founders of the organization. Since its founding in 2004, Positive Energy has offered outdoor adventure programs direct to thousands of Minnesota youth and families and through collaboration with youth serving organizations and schools.

Project Director Stephanie Love, M.S., Experiential Education, has over 15 years of experience in the outdoor education field and extensive experience with youth program quality evaluation. She is an adjunct faculty member at The College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, a Youth Development Consultant for the University of Minnesota's Youth Work Institute and a Field Consultant for the David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality based in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

