

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

LCCMR ID: 194-G

Project Title: Minnesota Outdoor Classrooms: Professional Development

Category: G. Environmental Education

Total Project Budget: \$ \$48,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 2 yrs, July 2011 - June 2013

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 0

Summary:

Pheasants Forever's Leopold Education Project will provide training and materials to formal/non-formal educators statewide on new curriculum and activities to teach environmental education and stewardship in outdoor classrooms.

Name: Janine Kohn

Sponsoring Organization: Pheasants Forever, Inc.

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Location

Region: Statewide

Ecological Section: Statewide

County Name: Statewide

City / Township:

<u> </u> Funding Priorities	<u> </u> Multiple Benefits	<u> </u> Outcomes	<u> </u> Knowledge Base
<u> </u> Extent of Impact	<u> </u> Innovation	<u> </u> Scientific/Tech Basis	<u> </u> Urgency
<u> </u> Capacity Readiness	<u> </u> Leverage	<u> </u> Employment	<u> </u> TOTAL <u> </u> %

MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: Minnesota Outdoor Classrooms: Professional Development

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

1. To create a future citizenry that will respect Minnesota's natural resources, it's necessary to instill in today's youth an appreciation and understanding of the natural world through outdoor explorations, discoveries and activities. The Leopold Education Project has trained teachers for over 19 years with a internationally recognized curriculum "Lessons in a Land Ethic" – the only curriculum to incorporate a classic piece of literature, *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold. Recognizing that the need to connect youth to the outdoors is greater than ever, Pheasants Forever has launched the NO CHILD LEFT INDOORS® Initiative, of which the Leopold Education Project is part. In 2009, two new teaching tools were completed: 1) "Lessons in GPS Technology: Connecting Students to Nature" and 2) "Exploring the Outdoors with Aldo Leopold" (an outdoor activities guide). Both offer formal and non-formal educators opportunities to explore the outdoors using critical thinking skills and hands-on activities for all ages. The key is getting these new tools into the hands of educators, naturalists, park rangers and other youth leaders through training workshops. An LCCMR grant would allow the Leopold Education Project to accelerate delivery in Minnesota and thus reach more educators in a short period of time.
2. Goal: Educate Minnesota youth (and indirectly their families) about Minnesota's natural resources and how to enjoy, protect and responsibly use. Through six training workshops offered around the state in two years, 40 facilitators (who in turn will train other educators) and 80 educators will be trained in how to use the new activities in outdoor settings (classrooms). In addition, activity kits will be made available to further provide resources. Once trained, the educators will reach youth and their families in communities around the state through classrooms, nature centers, parks and zoos, as well as community events.
3. How to achieve goals:
 - a. Train 40 facilitators who will in turn train others to use the new Leopold Education Project activities in their communities.
 - b. Train 80 educators, formal and non-formal, to use the new Leopold Education Project activities in their classrooms and programs.
 - c. Provide resource materials and teaching kits.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

Result 1: Facilitator Training

Budget: \$ 21,000

A facilitator workshop consists of two days of training and includes background, a historic perspective on Aldo Leopold and his book *A Sand County Almanac*, hands-on introduction to lessons from "Lessons in GPS Technology" and activities in "Exploring the Outdoors with Aldo Leopold," and opportunities to practice and teach from both. In addition, participants become qualified to offer educator workshops to others in their communities.

Deliverable

1. Two facilitator workshops in different locations in the state
2. 40 facilitators trained representing at least 20 communities

Completion Date

By July 2012
By July 2012

Result 2: Educator Training**Budget: \$22,000**

Educator workshops are offered to teachers, naturalists, youth program leaders, park rangers and others who work with youth and their families. The one-day workshops will include hands-on instruction in either or both of the new resources.

Deliverable

1. Four educator workshops in different locations in the state
2. 80 facilitators trained representing at least 40 communities

Completion Date

By June 2013
By June 2013

Result 3: Teaching Materials and Development (2)**Budget: \$53,000****Grant \$5,000****Match \$48,000**

Two teaching kits will be created with materials needed to teach workshops for each of the new Leopold Education Project programs

Deliverable

1. Teaching kit with GPS receivers, rechargeable batteries and units and other needed resources to teach "Lessons in GPS Technology"
2. Teaching kit with needed resources to offer activities for "Exploring the Outdoors with Aldo Leopold"

Completion Date

By July 2012
By July 2012

III. PROJECT STRATEGY**A. Project Team/Partners**

Project team will be:

From Pheasants Forever: Janine Kohn, National Leopold Education Project Coordinator, will oversee workshops, help conduct facilitator trainings, recruit participants and create kits.

Minnesota Leopold Education Project State Coordinator: Dr. William Faber, Ph.D, CWB, Natural Resources Instructor, Central Lakes College, Brainerd, will conduct workshops working with other Leopold Education Project facilitators from around the state.

B. Timeline Requirements

Facilitator workshops will be conducted first year; educator workshops will be conducted in first and second years. Kits will be completed first year.

C. Long-Term Strategy

Pheasants Forever will continue to support the Leopold Education Project in Minnesota beyond the time period specified in this grant. LCCMR funding, however, will provide a quicker infusion of newly trained educators to engage youth and families in learning about Minnesota's natural resources in outdoor settings that we could not otherwise achieve. The more individuals trained, the more youth that can be reached. With LCCMR funding for two years, Pheasants Forever will be able to ask chapter members to match funds which will assist in the NO CHILD LEFT INDOORS® Initiative. Once LCCMR grant monies have been used and a network of educators trained, Pheasants Forever chapters in Minnesota will continue to financially support the trained educators with future training opportunities, creation of outdoor classrooms and habitat projects and additional activity kits which can be used in various educational venues across the state.

Project Budget

Project Title: Minnesota Outdoor Classrooms: Professional Development

IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET (2 years)

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
<p>Personnel: 1) Janine Kohn, Project Manager & National Leopold Education Project Coordinator, will be compensated to plan, promote and oversee all workshops. She will help teach facilitator workshops. 144 hours over two years at \$34.30/hour (7% of her full-time position). \$3,198 towards salary and \$1,741 toward taxes, insurance and benefits.</p> <p>2) Ron Leathers, Grants Administrator, for 40 hours over two years at \$42.27/hour</p>	\$ 7,000
<p>Contracts: Dr. William Faber, MN Leopold Education Project state coordinator and a LEP Facilitator (TBA) will receive a \$500/day per person stipend for teaching two 2-day facilitator workshops and four 1-day educator workshops over two years.</p>	\$ 8,000
<p>Equipment/Tools/Supplies: GPS Teaching Kit to includes 20 GPS receivers, rechargeable batteries and recharging units, any other needed equipment (\$3,000). Outdoor Activities Kit to include materials and supplies needed to teach activities from "Exploring the Outdoors with Aldo Leopold" Activities Guide (\$2,000)</p>	\$ 5,000
<p>Travel: All travel is in-state and averaged per trip since distances will vary -- includes mileage, lodging and meals for Kohn, Faber and LEP Facilitator.</p> <p>2 facilitator workshops @ \$600 per trip for all facilitators= \$1,200 4 educator workshops @ \$200/trip = \$800</p>	\$ 2,000
<p>Additional Budget Items:Cost per person to cover materials, meeting space, lodging, meals for training. Facilitator training = \$350/person; Educator training = \$150/person. 20 participants per workshop. Participants will be asked to pay for their travel, a substitute teacher if needed and \$50 for facilitator workshops, \$25 for educator workshops.</p>	\$ 26,000
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR	\$ 48,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:	\$ 48,000	0
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:		0
In-kind Services During Project Period: Advertising and promotion of workshops and general communication \$500/workshop	\$ 3,000	0
Remaining \$ from Current Trust Fund Appropriation (if applicable):		0
Funding History: USFWS federal grant to develop "Lessons in GPS Technology" (\$31,000) and USFWS federal grant to develop "Exploring the Outdoors with Aldo Leopold Activities Guide" (\$25,000)	\$ 56,000	All funds used

Minnesota Outdoor Classrooms: Professional Development

Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description

Project Manager: Janine Kohn

Janine is the National Education Specialist for Pheasants Forever and National Coordinator for the Leopold Education Project. She has worked for Pheasants Forever since 2001. Formerly she was a middle school science teacher/outdoor education instructor and was the assistant director of an international summer adventure camp.

Currently Janine conducts workshops around the country and trains educators in the Leopold Program. She has designed national curriculum materials for Pheasants Forever and is recently served on a committee, with 11 other representatives in the state of MN which proposed legislation that would include outdoor education in Minnesota schools grades 7-12.

Janine is an adjunct professor at Hamline University in Minnesota and offers graduate credits for LEP trainings. Janine is a national presenter on the Leopold Education Project and Pheasant's Forever's NO CHILD LEFT INDOORS® initiative. In addition, she is a facilitator for Project Wild; Project Wet; Project Learning Tree; Project Food, Land & People. She has a certificate in environmental education and is completing her master's degree in environmental education.

Organization Description: Pheasants Forever is a non-profit organization incorporated in Minnesota in 1982 that is dedicated to the conservation of pheasants, quail and other wildlife through habitat improvements, public awareness, education and land management policies and programs. Pheasants Forever created the Leopold Education Project in 1993 to educate citizenry in Minnesota and across the country about the importance of natural resources and to teach young people about the land ethic of Aldo Leopold.

