

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2019 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**Project Title:**

**ENRTF ID: 122-C**

Camp Sunrise: Respect Self, Others and the Environment

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**Category:** C. Environmental Education

**Sub-Category:**

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**Total Project Budget: \$** 237,000

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** June 30, 2022 (3 yrs)

**Summary:**

Camp Sunrise is an integrated environmental education program for economically disadvantaged youth. This innovative camp experience allows children a hands-on program to understand their impact on the environment and nature.

**Name:** Isiah Jones

**Sponsoring Organization:** YouthCARE MN

**Title:** Director, Camp Sunrise

**Department:** N/A

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Minneapolis MN 55414

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**Web Address** <http://www.youthcaremn.org/index.php/programs/camp-sunrise>

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**Location**

**Region:** Metro

**County Name:** Anoka, Chisago, Hennepin, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Ramsey, Sherburne, Washington

**City / Township:**

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**Alternate Text for Visual:**

Four photographs show campers exploring nature engaging in outdoor activities including canoeing and hiking on an overlay map of the St. Croix River and Camp Sunrise.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Funding Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/>	Outcomes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Knowledge Base
<input type="checkbox"/>	Extent of Impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific/Tech Basis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urgency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Capacity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Readiness	<input type="checkbox"/>	Leverage	<input type="checkbox"/>	TOTAL <input type="checkbox"/> %
<input type="checkbox"/>	If under \$200,000, waive presentation?						



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)  
2019 Main Proposal**

**PROJECT TITLE: Camp Sunrise: Respect Self, Others and the Environment**

**I. PROJECT STATEMENT**

Camp Sunrise will facilitate a first-hand environmental experience for youth, ages 13-18, including a focus on environmental stewardship and understanding that leads to lifelong respect for nature and the environment. There is a need among youth, today, to better understand the relationship between human activity and the environment. There is an increasing number of young people who do not have access to nature, leading to a disconnect and lack of investment in the environment and their role as environmental stewards.

Camp Sunrise seeks a grant from the ENRTF to dive deeper into participants' three-day canoe trip by incorporating; interactions with environment experts; water quality testing; updating Project Wet learning materials and expanding the geographic reach of the program. Learning about water pollution will build on the knowledge the campers already receive as part of the Adopt-a-River program. Adopt-a-River is in partnership with Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa and gives youth an opportunity to clean up debris in and around the St. Croix River. This volunteer work, coupled with the new water quality testing, will show campers the biological effect that pollution has on this National Scenic Riverway.

Part of the weekly experience at Camp Sunrise is service projects. Campers will continue to participate in a pollinator habitat restoration project in conjunction with Xcel Energy, as well as work to removing invasive buckthorn plants in the area. Camp Sunrise will bring in experts on water quality, invasive species, and forestry, to name a few. Young people can meet the specialists working on these conservation issues first hand. This will give these campers access to professionals that they would not otherwise meet.

Camp Sunrise will widen the geographic region from which it currently engages students and begin building relationships with the school districts near Rush City including Braham, Cambridge-Isanti, Chisago Lakes, Forest Lake, North Branch, and Princeton.

They will learn respect for themselves, their fellow campers, and the land around them.

**II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES**

**Activity 1: Implement New Science-Focused Programming and Activities**

**Budget: \$189,600**

Camp Sunrise will implement science-focused programming and activities in the 2019 summer camp.

- **Water Testing:** Camp Sunrise will purchase water quality testing kits, which will give campers a chance to learn about recording field data and scientific inquiry. As campers paddle down the St. Croix River on their three-day canoe trip and pick up refuse, they will also gain a deeper understanding of its water quality and the ecosystem impacting it.
- **Project Wet Curriculum:** Camp Sunrise will update its Project WET Curriculum and Activity Guides to further assist camp counselors when teaching about water quality, aquatic wildlife, and the ecosystem.
- **Expert Interaction:** Each week, environmental experts will share knowledge with the campers in an outdoor setting. The experts will relate activities already taking place at camp and connect these activities to their own careers; showing the campers the possibility of jobs in the field. Camp Sunrise intends to have 3-5 experts participate in camp for the summer of 2019. This approach will include specialists discussing topics such as invasive species and the types of plants and animals currently under threat. Other potential topics may include the positive steps being taken to improve the landscape for pollinators, forestry, and water quality.

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
1. Acquisition, training and use of new Water Quality Testing Kits	July 2019
2. Update Project WET resources and activity guides	July 2019
3. Provide educational interactions with experts to discuss issues related to the youth's experiences at Camp Sunrise.	July 2019
4. Track and evaluate the new environment programming outcome data at the end of	December 2019,



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)  
2019 Main Proposal**

each Camp Season in order to make adjustments for the upcoming Camp Season	2020, 2021
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**Activity 2: Expand Participation beyond Minneapolis and Saint Paul**

**Budget: \$47,000**

Camp Sunrise will partner with surrounding school districts in 2019 and 2020. These include, but are not limited to, Braham, Cambridge-Isanti, Chisago Lakes, Forest Lake, North Branch, and Princeton. In 2020, students from these new school districts will begin attending camp. This grant will help pay for staff time used to engage with new school district leadership and parents about the partnerships.

In order to fully implement Activity 1 and Activity 2, Camp Sunrise will hire a Summer Program Coordinator to support counselors with the new environmental-based programming and to assist the Camp Director in recruiting experts to come to the camp each week. Camp Sunrise will also hire two School Year Educators to schedule and lead activities throughout the school year that preview the activities and programs students can expect at Camp Sunrise.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Make connections with the 6 school districts closest to Rush City	December 2019
2. Meet with students and key district personnel in the 6 school districts and give an in-depth, hand-on experience presentations about the camp program	December 2020
3. Enroll at least 60 students total from the six school districts to attend camp for the Summer 2020 season	May 2020

**III. PROJECT PARTNERS:**

Camp Sunrise has developed a number of partnerships with Minnesota companies, philanthropic organizations and the state of Minnesota during its 44-year history.

**A. Partners receiving ENRTF funding**

- Camp Sunrise will partner with subject matter experts and scientists to provide learning experiences to campers.
- Camp Sunrise will continue to use resources from their parent organization, YouthCARE, to help with the recruitment of new campers from outside of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

**B. Partners NOT receiving ENRTF funding**

- Xcel Energy is one of Camp Sunrise's biggest partners. Xcel Energy owns the land and has leased it to Camp Sunrise since the very beginning. Camp Sunrise helps Xcel by planting pollinator habitat on the land.
- The National Park Service, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and Conservation Corps of Minnesota & Iowa are an integral resource for Camp Sunrise.
- The Mortenson Family Foundation, 3M Gives, National Parks Challenge Cost Share, and General Mills Foundation give funds to Camp Sunrise to help with operating costs.

**IV. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:**

If selected for ENRTF, Camp Sunrise would allow YouthCARE to re-invigorate its current donor base, and open new opportunities and funding partnerships because of the added experiential environmental education programming available to an underserved, diverse group of youth. The three-year ENRTF grant would allow Camp Sunrise to track program outcome data, which is critical in order to apply or increase funding requests with foundations and grants such as the National Science Foundation. YouthCARE and Camp Sunrise will continue to raise funds through foundations and grants. We will also continue our commitment to public private partnerships.

## 2019 Proposal Budget Spreadsheet

**Project Title:**

### IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET \$237,000 for 3 years

BUDGET ITEM (See "Guidance on Allowable Expenses")	AMOUNT
<b>Personnel:</b> Program Director: 50% FTE including benefits \$90,000 Summer Program Coordinator FT for 12 weeks \$4500/summer \$13,500 School Year Educators \$15/hour, 10 hours/week, 32 weeks/year \$11,000	\$ 136,500
<b>Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:</b> Environmental Experts (Speakers) \$30/hour, 2hours/visit, 2 visits/week, 10 weeks, plus travel reimbursement \$8,400 Curriculum Implementation Training for Staff \$9,000	\$ 17,400
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b> Project Wet Curriculum & Materials \$2,100 Water Testing Kits & Training \$9,000 PFDs, Paddles, Cook Kits, Canoe, & Duluth Pack Replacements \$18,000 Food for Participants \$12,000	\$ 41,100
<b>Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):</b> NA	\$ -
<b>Travel:</b> Transportation (Vehicle) \$30,000 Mileage \$6,000	\$ 36,000
<b>Additional Budget Items:</b> Printing & Outreach Materials \$6,000	\$ 6,000
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =</b>	<b>\$ 237,000</b>

### V. OTHER FUNDS (This entire section must be filled out. Do not delete rows. Indicate "N/A" if row is not applicable.)

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
<b>Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b> Mortenson Family Foundation (\$15,000/ year) \$45,000 secured/pending Xcel Energy Foundation (\$25,000/year) \$75,000 pending 3M Gives (\$7,500/year) \$22,500 pending National Parks Challenge Cost Share (\$25,000/ year) \$25,000 pending General Mills Foundation (\$5,000/year) \$10,000 secured	\$ 177,500	pending/ secured
<b>Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b> Summer Food Service Program (about \$8,000/year) \$24,000 a year, reimbursement/pending	\$ 24,000	pending
<b>In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b> Youth Employee (Peer Mentor) Wages (\$15,000/ year) \$45,000 secured/pending YouthCARE Executive Director (\$5,000) \$15,000 secured National Park Service Staff (\$5,000/year) \$15,000 secured/pending MN DNR Staff (\$8,000/year) \$24,000 secured/pending YouthCARE Camp Counselors (\$25,000/year) \$75,000 secured	\$ 174,000	Secured/ pending
<b>Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation:</b> NA	\$ -	
<b>Other Funding History:</b> N/A	\$ -	





Established in 1974

**Camp Sunrise** is an experiential environmental education program for young people, 13-18, from diverse backgrounds. The no-cost camp offers the opportunity for campers to understand first-hand their impact on nature.



#### Activity 1:

#### Implement New STEM-Focused Programming and Activities at Camp Sunrise

- Incorporate water quality testing for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) into weekly canoe trips to help campers connect the impact of people on our water systems while giving back to the community through sample collection and the Adopt-a-River program.
- Utilize **Project Wet** by training camp counselors on how to integrate the curriculum into their weekly camper activities such as canoe trips, ecology education experience, and service projects.
- Develop relationships with outdoor STEM professionals and recruit 2-3 to present at Camp Sunrise each week (June-August) to educate campers on content area and share their career paths.

#### Activity 2:

#### Expand Camp Sunrise Participation Beyond Minneapolis and St. Paul

- Make initial connections with the six school districts surrounding Camp Sunrise -Braham, Cambridge-Isanti, Chisago Lakes, Forest Lake, North Branch, and Princeton.
- Meet with key district personnel and provide an in-depth presentation of the experiential environment education summer program and other engagement opportunities.
- At least 60 students from the six surrounding school districts will attend Camp Sunrise during in the 2020 summer.



**Respect Self, Others, and the Environment**

## PROJECT MANAGER – Isiah Jones, Camp Sunrise Director

Isiah Jones began working at Camp Sunrise in 2005, holding a variety of positions including counselor and program director. He was promoted to camp director in 2010. During his tenure



at Camp Sunrise, Isiah worked to ensure the staff at camp represent the young people attending by recruiting and training a staff that is 80-90% people of color each summer. Additionally, nearly 80% of the camp staff have been campers prior to being hired as adult staff, which has created a strong continuity in the program.

Isiah graduated from Hopkins High School and attended Minneapolis Community and Technical College and Augsburg College before coming to YouthCARE full-time in 2008.

A native of Minnesota, Isiah grew up camping throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin. He has led countless camping trips for youth from Minneapolis and St. Paul. Sharing his love of the outdoors is what motivates him to continue his work at Camp Sunrise. In addition to his work as a leader at Camp Sunrise, Isiah has led a variety of trainings and workshops for regarding diversity and inclusion in the outdoors.

## ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION – Camp Sunrise

Camp Sunrise is a program of YouthCARE (Youth for Cultural Appreciation and Racial Equality). Situated near Rush City, MN along the St. Croix River (an hour north of the Twin Cities), Camp Sunrise is a highly acclaimed year-round youth employment and educational training program focused on bringing together young people 13-18 years old, from diverse ethnic, cultural and racial backgrounds, to live and work in an outdoor community. This unique program connects young people to the outdoors and helps youth to become leaders and build cross-cultural friendships while developing 21st century skills. A strong component of the Camp Sunrise Program is helping young people, who are often not provided opportunities to develop a connection to nature, to become environmental stewards and explore their impact on the environment. During their time at camp young people participate in team building activities, outdoor and environmental education, canoeing and hiking trips, and participate in community service projects for nearby state and national parks including the Adopt-a-River program along the St. Croix River.

