

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

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 124-C

Connecting Over 11,000 Students to the Boundary Waters

Category: C. Environmental Education

Sub-Category:

Total Project Budget: \$ 783,135

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

Summary:

This project will connect over 11,000 students to the Boundary Waters through classroom education and wilderness canoe experiences, targeting diverse and underserved populations across Minnesota.

Name: Chris Knopf

Sponsoring Organization: Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness

Title: Executive Director

Department:

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Location

Region: Statewide

County Name: Statewide

City / Township:

Alternate Text for Visual:

Our visual includes the following: organization logo, title of project, photo of the BWCAW, state-wide map w/ BWCAW, photo of classroom outreach, & photos of past program participants at Camp Menogyn and the BWCAW

_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity	_____ Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ TOTAL _____%
_____ If under \$200,000, waive presentation?			

PROJECT TITLE: Connecting Over 11,000 Students to the Boundary Waters

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This project will connect over 11,000 students to the Boundary Waters through classroom education and wilderness canoe experiences, targeting diverse and underserved populations across Minnesota.

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Arizona has the Grand Canyon. Wyoming has the Tetons. And Minnesota has the Boundary Waters.

Although approximately 200,000 people visit the Boundary Waters each year, many Minnesotans have never been to the Boundary Waters and do not have a full appreciation of its unique and complex wildlife, ecology, culture, and history. This project aims to change this situation by connecting over 11,000 students (grades 6-12) to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness through classroom education and wilderness canoe experiences, targeting diverse and underserved students throughout Minnesota. There are two components to this program:

- Educational, classroom presentations about the wildlife, ecology, culture, and history of the Boundary Waters at schools across Minnesota, reaching at least 10,800 students over a three-year period.
- Multi-day wilderness canoe experiences in the Boundary Waters for at least 750 students from across Minnesota over a three-year period, focusing on outdoor skills, leadership development, and self-reliance.

Providing educational and classroom outreach about the Boundary Waters and multi-day wilderness canoe experiences in the Boundary Waters will yield multiple lasting benefits for the youth participants, for the Boundary Waters, and for the state of Minnesota. This project will increase students' understanding of the Boundary Waters, while also developing leadership skills, self-reliance, and positive relationships. An important part of the long-term protection of the Boundary Waters is fostering the next generation of wilderness paddlers and explorers. The deep connections that students will develop with the Boundary Waters will lead to sustained awareness and care of wilderness areas. Minnesota benefits from its youth developing leadership skills, self-reliance, and an enhanced stewardship ethic.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1: Connecting 10,800 Students from Across Minnesota to the Boundary Waters Through Classroom Education

An Education and Community Outreach Coordinator will give presentations at schools across Minnesota to educate students (grades 6-12) about the Boundary Waters, with an emphasis on diverse and underserved students who would not otherwise have exposure to the Boundary Waters. This activity will reach 3,600 students annually over a three-year period, reaching a total of 10,800 high-school students in all four Minnesota DNR Regions across the state (Northwest, Northeast, Southern, and Central). Students will learn about the wildlife and ecology of the Boundary Waters, the unique history of the Boundary Waters, historical figures (i.e., Sig Olson, Dorothy Molter), and the Leave No Trace principle. This will also be an opportunity to recruit interested students for multi-day wilderness canoe trips in the Boundary Waters as outlined in Activity 2.

Activity 1 will build upon and expand our existing curriculum related to the Boundary Waters called "The BWCA Wilderness Kit." The BWCA Wilderness Kit is an engaging, hands-on curriculum designed for middle school-aged youth that introduces students to the Boundary Waters and helps them explore and discover the wonders of Minnesota's one-of-a-kind wilderness area. The kit was developed with educator involvement and in partnership with the Superior National Forest. The units and activities are aimed at middle school grade levels (6-8), however, each lesson is flexible enough to tailor content to an older audience.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$290,635

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Year 1: 3,000 diverse and underserved students (grades 6-12) from across Minnesota develop an understanding and appreciation of the Boundary Waters (Computation: 25 visits/year x 120 students/visit = 3,000 students)	6/30/2020
2. Year 2: 3,600 diverse and underserved students (grades 6-12) from across Minnesota develop an understanding and appreciation of the Boundary Waters (Computation: 30 visits/year x 120 students/visit = 3,600 students)	6/30/2021

3. Year 3: 4,200 diverse and underserved students (grades 6-12) from across Minnesota develop an understanding and appreciation of the Boundary Waters (Computation: 35 visits/year x 120 students/visit = 4,200 students)	6/30/2022
4. Total Impact: 10,800 diverse and underserved students (grades 6-12) from across Minnesota develop an understanding and appreciation of the Boundary Waters	6/30/2022

Activity 2: Providing 750 Diverse and Underserved Students from Across Minnesota with a Multi-Day Wilderness Canoe Experience in the Boundary Waters

While many Minnesotans are familiar with the Boundary Waters, for others it is a remote and foreign place that they may never visit because of cost or distance. To alleviate these barriers, this program will provide scholarships to 750 diverse and underserved high-school students from across Minnesota so that they can experience a multi-day, wilderness canoe trip in the Boundary Waters. These students will develop leadership skills and learn how to be self-reliant outdoors through hands-on activities such as canoeing, portaging, building a fire, pitching a tent, and fishing. They will also develop love and respect for the wilderness by learning about the unique wildlife, ecology, history, and culture of the Boundary Waters.

This Activity will leverage our existing collaborative partnership with YMCA Camp Menogyn to build on our current program that provides multi-day wilderness canoe experiences in the Boundary Waters for approximately 30-60 students each year from underserved and diverse communities in Minnesota. In the past, this program has relied on several community partners to help recruit and sponsor youth from diverse and underserved backgrounds. For example, in 2017 these organizations included Learning Works, Venture Academy, Hiawatha Academy, Hmong Outdoor Leadership Training, Tamales y Bicicletas, REBOUND Minneapolis, YMCA Intervention Services, TORCH, and White Bear Lake Community Education. We will build upon these existing partnerships and create new ones to ensure a statewide reach.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$492,500

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Year 1: 200 diverse and underserved students (grades 9-12) from across Minnesota have a multi-day wilderness canoe experience in the Boundary Waters, developing leadership skills and self-reliance through hands-on activities.	9/1/2020
2. Year 2: 250 diverse and underserved students (grades 9-12) from across Minnesota have a multi-day wilderness canoe experience in the Boundary Waters, developing leadership skills and self-reliance through hands-on activities.	9/1/2021
3. Year 3: 300 diverse and underserved students (grades 9-12) from across Minnesota have a multi-day wilderness canoe experience in the Boundary Waters, developing leadership skills and self-reliance through hands-on activities.	9/1/2022
4. Total Impact: 750 diverse and underserved students (grades 9-12) from across Minnesota have a multi-day wilderness canoe experience in the Boundary Waters, developing leadership skills and self-reliance through hands-on activities.	9/1/2022

III. PROJECT PARTNERS:

A. Partners receiving ENRTF funding: N/A

B. Partners not receiving ENRTF funding: YMCA's Camp Menogyn will partner with us in implementing Activity 2.

IV. TIME LINE REQUIREMENTS: This is a three-year program with each activity occurring annually over the three-year period. Periodic project status update reports will be submitted bi-annually each year. A final report will be submitted at the culmination of the three years and will include qualitative data on the impact this experiential education program had on participants. Over the long term, program participants will be tracked using metrics, including but not limited to, high school graduation and college matriculation rates.

V. SEE ADDITIONAL PROPOSAL COMPONENTS:

A. Proposal Budget Spreadsheet – see attached

B. Visual Component or Map – see attached

C. Parcel List Spreadsheet – N/A

D. Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration Requirements – N/A

E. Research Addendum (not required at proposal stage) – N/A

F. Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description – see attached

G. Letter or Resolution – see attached

H. Certified Audit or 990 Tax Information – see attached

2019 Proposal Budget Spreadsheet

Project Title: Connecting Over 11,000 Students to the Boundary Waters

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET: 3 Years

BUDGET ITEM (See "Guidance on Allowable Expenses")	AMOUNT
Personnel:	\$ 200,770
Education and Community Outreach Coordinator: 1.0 FTE x 3 years at \$56,667/year (78% salary; 22% benefits); Subtotal: \$56,667 x 3 years = approximately \$170,000	
Program Assistant: 0.25 FTE x 3 years at \$41,026/year (78% salary; 22% benefits) = \$30,770	
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:	\$ 60,000
Program Associates (independent contractors selected competitively) to assist with recruiting and preparing students for Boundary Waters canoe trips (\$20,000/year x 3 years = \$60,000)	
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$ 143,900
Educational program materials for classroom use (\$8/student x 10,800 students = \$86,400)	
Program materials for students on Boundary Waters canoe trips (\$10/student x 750 students = \$7,500)	
Boundary Waters canoe trip outdoor clothing for students of extreme financial need (\$200/student x 250 students = \$50,000)	
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):	N/A
Travel:	\$ 18,465
Travel to Minnesota school (30 school visit/year x 3 years x 300 miles/visit x 0.545 = \$14,715)	
Staff food and lodging for overnight stays for visits to schools in Greater Minnesota (10 overnight stays/year x 3 years x \$125 = \$3,750)	
Additional Budget Items:	\$ 360,000
Scholarships: For 600 high-school students to experience a multi-day canoe trip in the Boundary Waters (600 students x \$600/student = \$360,000)	
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 783,135

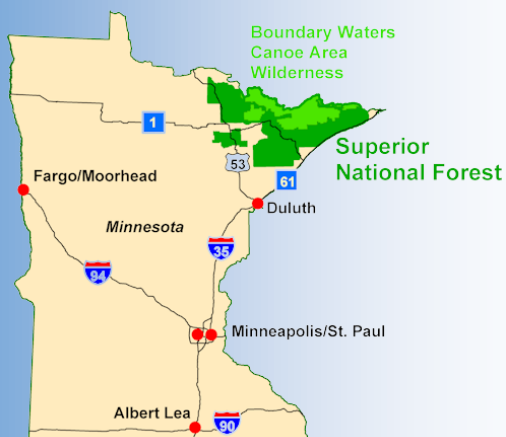
V. OTHER FUNDS (This entire section must be filled out. Do not delete rows. Indicate "N/A" if row is not applicable.)

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:	\$ -	
Individual donations and foundation grants to support the multi-day Boundary Waters canoe wilderness trips. (estimate)	\$ 75,000	<i>Pending</i>
Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:	\$ -	
Additional staff support from the Executive Director and Northern Communities Director (\$15,000/year x 3 years = \$45,000)	\$ 45,000	<i>Secured</i>
Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation:	\$ -	
Other Funding History:	\$ -	



Connecting over 11,000 diverse, underserved students across Minnesota to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness

“No Boundaries to the Boundary Waters”



Connecting Students to the Boundary Waters Through Classroom Education.



Team Building and Leadership Development at Camp Menogyn.



Past Program Participants on their Multi-Day Wilderness Canoe Experience in the Boundary Waters.

Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness
“Connecting Over 11,000 Students to the Boundary Waters”

Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description

Project Manager Qualifications

Project Manager, Chris Knopf, is the Executive Director at Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness and has spent over 25 years working to protect, preserve, and restore our wild places. Prior to joining the Friends, Mr. Knopf practiced environmental law and worked for The Trust for Public Land and the Indian Land Tenure Foundation. He graduated from Georgetown University and received his J.D. from University of Virginia School of Law.

Organization Description

Founded in 1976, Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting, preserving and restoring the wilderness character of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and the Quetico-Superior Ecosystem. We have over 3,000 members from Minnesota and throughout the country.