



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2022 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2022-104

Proposal Title: Illuminate the Natural World and Inspire Its Conservation

Project Manager Information

Name: Alyson Gagner

Organization: YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities

Office Telephone: (612) 237-3883

Email: alyson.gagner@ymcamn.org

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Provide scholarships for 450 young people from areas of persistent poverty and support transportation to bring them to camp for science outdoors and to gain understanding of conservation and preservation.

Funds Requested: \$492,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30 2025

LCCMR Funding Category: Environmental Education (C)

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Statewide

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Region(s): Metro

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Narrative

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

YMCA Beacons programs are provided at nine schools in the Twin Cities area. Beacons staff work directly with teachers and classrooms where they support student connection to learning at the schools in after-school and summer programming. Students served by Beacons are 80% BIPOC, and in schools with 90% Free/Reduced lunch rates. These students do not have the same opportunities for access to the same educational experiences as their white peers. Without a scholarship, these students will not have access to camp, science in nature, and the experiences that teach the value of Minnesota wilderness and its preservation.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? i.e. What are you seeking funding to do? You will be asked to expand on this in Activities and Milestones.

This funding would provide scholarships for 450 young people from areas of persistent poverty and support transportation to bring them to camp for science outdoors and to gain appreciation of Minnesota wilderness. Camp provides the students time outdoors, where they will participate with the YMCA Outdoor Environmental Education program extending their sciences curriculum with hands-on experiences and observation in the wilderness. The program includes both a strong academic focus and enrichment opportunities and that go beyond “preventing summer learning loss” with a focus on accelerating learning during their time at camp.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state’s natural resources?

The goal of 450 Beacons kids attending Camp is to build sustainable connections between underserved youth and Minnesota natural resources that will enhance their learning, and engage youth with environmental sciences leading to future community stewardship.

Our objectives are to:

- 1) Increase young people’s knowledge, appreciation, and stewardship of land and water as a natural resources and as sources of recreational activity.
- 2) Increase access for BIPOC children to the experiences of camp and exploring Minnesota wilderness.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Provide access to camp and outdoor learning for 450 students from metro areas of persistent poverty.

Activity Budget: \$405,000

Activity Description:

Provide scholarships for 450 students from urban areas access to outdoor learning, to enhance their sciences curriculum. They will attend camp for one week (year-round possibility), with school teachers and YMCA Beacons School Success staff where they will learn science in nature, experience and observe Minnesota wilderness. Students will come from nine schools who partner with the YMCA Beacons School Success program.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
450 students (150 per year) will have access to camp scholarships over three years	June 30 2025

Activity 2: Transportation for 450 students to camp, accompanied by Beacons staff, and lunches on travel days.

Activity Budget: \$87,000

Activity Description:

Transportation (40 trips) to camp and home, accompanied by staff, including box lunch. Beacons costs: Transportation (\$300/trip x 40 trips = \$12,000), Beacons School Success Youth Workers (\$350 x 40 trips = \$14,000), lunches on travel days are purchased from school lunch programs (\$75.00 x 40 trips = \$3,000) = \$29,000/year x 3 years = \$87,000

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Transportation of 450 youth to camp	June 30 2025
Youth supported by Beacons staff to go to camp	June 30 2025

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Alyson Gagner	Anne Sullivan/Anishinabe Academy	YMCA Beacons School Success Program provides programming for children at these schools year round, coordinating with classroom teachers. Funding will provide opportunity for students to access science in nature at camp.	No
Alyson Gagner	Richfield High School	YMCA Beacons School Success Program provides programming for children at these schools year round, coordinating with classroom teachers. Funding will provide opportunity for students to access science in nature at camp.	No
Alyson Gagner	Edison School	YMCA Beacons School Success Program provides programming for children at these schools year round, coordinating with classroom teachers. Funding will provide opportunity for students to access science in nature at camp.	No
Alyson Gagner	KIPP Charter School	YMCA Beacons School Success Program provides programming for children at these schools year round, coordinating with classroom teachers. Funding will provide opportunity for students to access science in nature at camp.	No
Alyson Gagner	Nellie Stone Johnson	YMCA Beacons School Success Program provides programming for children at these schools year round, coordinating with classroom teachers. Funding will provide opportunity for students to access science in nature at camp.	No
Alyson Gagner	Roosevelt High School	YMCA Beacons School Success Program provides programming for children at these schools year round, coordinating with classroom teachers. Funding will provide opportunity for students to access science in nature at camp.	No
Alyson Gagner	John A. Johnson Elementary School	YMCA Beacons School Success Program provides programming for children at these schools year round, coordinating with classroom teachers. Funding will provide opportunity for students to access science in nature at camp.	No
Alyson Gagner	Maxfield Elementary School	YMCA Beacons School Success Program provides programming for children at these schools year round, coordinating with classroom teachers. Funding will provide opportunity for students to access science in nature at camp.	No

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this be funded?

This funding provides the opportunity to expand our Beacons School Success programming to provide enhancement to learning environmental sciences, and access for BIPOC youth to camping. Our youth come from areas of the metro of persistent poverty, and that may not change. But, the project outcomes will help inform other funders, and schools to provide funding for this programming for youth in the future.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Alyson Gagner

Job Title: YMCA Beacons School Success Program Executive

Provide description of the project manager's qualifications to manage the proposed project.

Alyson Gagner oversees YMCA Beacons and School Success programs. In her role as Program Executive, she brings more than a decade of youth and community professional experience to oversee eight Beacons School Success Centers in Minneapolis, St. Paul and Richfield, serving 2,500+ youth annually. Alyson has both a Bachelor's degree in Global Studies, Spanish, and Environmental Studies and a Master's degree in Youth Development and Leadership from the University of Minnesota. She is passionate about developing collaborative programs and creating opportunities for youth voice to further the work of the YMCA.

Organization: YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities

Organization Description:

The YMCA of the North is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. The Beacons program was established in 1998 to help support academic, social and development needs of youth in low-income communities. The YMCA is one of a public-private collaboration public schools with four youth development organizations: YWCA of Minneapolis, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities, Minneapolis Community Education, and the YMCA of the North. Each of these organizations operates one or more of the sixteen Beacon Centers in some of the most low-income and academically struggling schools, collectively serving more than 4,000 youth each year.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
							Sub Total	-
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	40 trips @ \$300/trip = \$12,000; Beacons Staff on trip (\$350 x 40 trips = \$14,000) and lunches on travel days (\$75/trip x 40 trips = \$3,000) total is \$29,000/year x 3 years = \$87,000	Transporting students to and from camp					\$87,000
							Sub Total	\$87,000
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								

							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
		Scholarships for 450 youth. Scholarships, 450 scholarships @ \$900 per child = \$405,000.00	Provide access to camp and outdoor learning to 450 students					\$405,000
							Sub Total	\$405,000
							Grand Total	\$492,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
---------------	---------------------	-------------	--

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
			Non State Sub Total	-
			Funds Total	-

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [2f0bd675-24a.docx](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Minnesota map with camp locations and chart of camps and their city location...

Financial Capacity

File: [41572781-2f3.pdf](#)

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
YMCA Outdoor Learning pictures	73d54e42-088.docx

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, or sale of products and assets?

No

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

N/A

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?

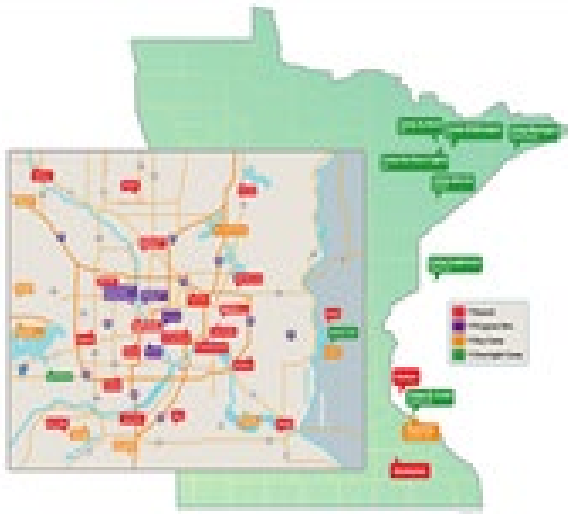
N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No



YMCA OF THE NORTH

YMCA of the North Minnesota Camps	Location
Camp du Nord	Ely, MN
Camp Iduhapi	Loretto, MN
Camp Menogyn	Grand Marais, MN
Camp Northern Lights	Babbitt, MN
Camp Warren	Eveleth, MN
Camp Widjiwagen	Ely, MN
Camp Christmas Tree	Mound, MN
Camp Heritage	Lino Lakes, MN
Camp Kici Yapi	Prior Lake, MN
Camp Manitou	Monticello, MN
Camp Spring Lake	Rosemount, MN
Camp Streefland	Lakeville, MN

