

**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. Ineli gible** | **% Bene fits** | **# FTE** | **Class ified 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](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/map/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](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/financial_capacity/41572781-2f3.pdf)

#### ***Board Resolution or Letter***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Title** | **File** |
| YMCA Outdoor Learning pictures | [73d54e42-088.docx](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/attachments/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