



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2025 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2025-254

Proposal Title: Activating Youth and Family Environmental Stewardship through Raptors

Project Manager Information

Name: Victoria Hall

Organization: U of MN - Raptor Center

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Project Basic Information

Project Summary: The Raptor Center proposes to provide holistic student and community engagement in environmental education, inspiring and activating both youth in under-resourced schools and their families through community events.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$228,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30, 2027

LCCMR Funding Category: Small Projects (H)

Secondary 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?

Statewide

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.

Students in under-resourced schools have diminished access to engaging STEM content that educates and inspires participation in environmental conservation. Additionally, all too often, existing education programs focus primarily on students, leaving out the vital component of family and community engagement to facilitate lasting impact in Minnesota youth. With environmental challenges more pressing than ever before, it's essential we holistically engage both students, expanding access to effective education, and their families and communities in the mission to protect the future of Minnesota's environment.

The Raptor Center has worked diligently for 50 years fostering long-lasting environmental stewardship and literacy in under-resourced schools. However, efforts are limited without acknowledging and fostering the crucial role families play in supporting students' interests in environmental education and conservation. We propose expanding efforts to pair engaging live raptor presentations and curriculum in schools, with community events so families can participate in interactive activities alongside their children, fostering a shared appreciation for nature and building a long-lasting and action-based conservation ethic. The combination of school programming and community engagement seeks to bridge the connection between families and environmental education, thus strengthening family bonds while inspiring a collective commitment to protecting Minnesota's natural resources for future generations.

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

To educate and excite students and connect back to families and communities, we propose to deliver 210 education programs utilizing live raptors and science standards to under-resourced schools across Minnesota and partner with 20 community events near the schools to bring families into the conversation.

Through past support of the ENRTF, we have refined school visits to consist of multi-unit education programming that builds upon science concepts and ignites curiosity and excitement in students over STEM topics and the natural world. We propose utilizing similar content for engagement booths at community events surrounding schools that we work with to create opportunities for students and their families to learn and share experiences together. Further, TRC will have print and digital resources that both teachers and families can use to continue exploring and learning beyond in-person visits.

By providing engaging and accessible educational opportunities three different times in the classroom and again out in the community with families, we aim to foster a sense of shared responsibility for protecting our natural resources among students and their families. This holistic approach not only addresses the immediate need for environmental education, but also cultivates a lasting commitment to conservation within communities.

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 Raptor Center will visit 70 under-resourced schools delivering 210 education programs to over 2,000 students and participate in 20 community events engaging over 4,000 community members. Content will focus on environmental/STEM curriculum, connecting students and families with nature, fostering a long-lasting conservation ethic. Additional education resources from TRC will amplify learnings beyond events. Program evaluation will guide continuous improvement of offerings to maximize effectiveness. Ultimately, TRC hopes to bring students and families together to increase awareness and understanding of the importance of protecting Minnesota's environment-empowering future generations to protect, preserve, and enhance state natural resources.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: In-School Environmental Programs with Live Raptors

Activity Budget: \$145,249

Activity Description:

Utilize The Raptor Center's live raptors and existing standards-based programming to deliver a series of three engaging presentations in a total of 70 under-resourced schools. Of these schools, 50 will be in the seven county Twin Cities Metropolitan area and 20 will be outside of the Twin Cities Metropolitan area. Eligible schools will be identified as under-resourced and eligible for programs through evaluation of factors including: historic free/reduced lunch data, participation in federal title programs, lack of access to other nature-based programming. These education programs will highlight the critical role of raptors in ecosystems and promote conservation awareness among students in under-resourced schools throughout Minnesota. They will inspire students and spark an interest in environmental education. Program evaluation will be performed mid-program, as well as at the conclusion of the program to help improve effectiveness of content and delivery.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
2025-2026 School Year: deliver 105 education programs to 35 schools	June 30, 2026
2026-2027 School Year: deliver 105 education programs to 35 schools.	June 30, 2027
Complete comprehensive evaluation of school programming to assess effectiveness in achieving educational objectives/engaging students	June 30, 2027

Activity 2: Family Community Events

Activity Budget: \$60,378

Activity Description:

The Raptor Center will host family-friendly booths and programs at community events and at The Raptor Center featuring hands-on activities and live raptor demonstrations. We will participate in a total of 20 community events of varied types, including 12 in the seven-county Twin Cities Metropolitan Area and 8 outside of the seven-county Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. These events will provide families with an opportunity to experience environmental education together, that aligns with content delivered during school programs, and inspire them to become environmental advocates. Program evaluation will be used throughout the grant period to evaluate effectiveness of booth and program activities and strive towards continual improvement of impact.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Participate in ten community events (six in seven-county metro area, four outside seven-county metro area)	June 30, 2026
Participate in additional ten community events (six in seven-county metro, four outside seven-county metro area)	June 30, 2027
Conduct and complete comprehensive evaluation of family community events to evaluate and enhance effectiveness/impact	June 30, 2027

Activity 3: Expansion of Print and Online Resource Offerings for Families

Activity Budget: \$22,373

Activity Description:

Develop and expand resources offered for families. This includes two main categories: 1) designing and generating a diverse collection of printed materials, including an activity booklet, for families and students to supplement their learning and encourage continued exploration of environmental education topics and 2) expanding upon an existing collection of digital educational materials on an online platform to include accessible extension activities specifically for families. These extension activities on an online resource portal will include: STEM fact sheets, field guides for outdoor exploration, and interactive games. This expansion to an existing resource library aims to ensure inclusivity and accessibility while fostering continuous learning and engagement beyond in-person events and in-school programs.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Design and generate a diverse collection of printed materials	December 31, 2025
Expand existing collection of digital educational materials to include accessible extension activities specifically for families	June 30, 2026
Distribute printed materials to approximately 1,000 families throughout Minnesota at community events	June 30, 2027

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 work be funded?

During this grant period, we will leverage existing relationships with schools that we would not be able to serve due to funding, and establish new relationships with community partners and organizations around these schools to engage community members. Comprehensive evaluation of both school programming and community events will be performed to measure impact of activities and then shared back with community partners and teachers to shape and refine efforts. By the end of this program, we will have well validated approaches to engaging students and family/community members that will allow us to seek additional philanthropic support to continue efforts.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Expanding Access To Environmental Education For Underserved Communities	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 05g	\$178,000
Reducing Biophobia & Fostering Environmental Stewardship in Underserved Schools	M.L. 2023, , Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 05d	\$180,000

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Victoria Hall

Job Title: Assistant Professor - College of Veterinary Medicine; Executive Director The Raptor Center

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

Dr. Hall is a faculty member at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine and serves as Executive Director for The Raptor Center. Dr. Hall is a veterinary expert actively working at the One Health intersection of human, animal, and environmental health challenges through applied epidemiologic work with birds, research, and education and outreach and education programming for students, professionals and the general public. She has previously worked as an epidemiologist and educator for organizations including the Smithsonian Institution and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and has extensive experience managing projects both in the United States and internationally. She has a diversity of current ongoing projects including creating wildlife health surveillance systems for emerging zoonotic diseases, developing effective global ecosystem health training programs for use at the country level around the world, and developing new methods for environmental education at the K-12, undergraduate and general public level. She is well versed working with both non-profits and governmental agencies.

Organization: U of MN - Raptor Center

Organization Description:

The Raptor Center (TRC) is a University research and outreach center focused on health issues found at the intersection of raptors and humans. TRC provides medical care for over 700 injured and ill raptors each year, trains veterinarians and veterinary students from around the world in conservation medicine and has extensive experience in outreach and environmental education, averaging over 1,000 programs reaching more than 200,000 people throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa annually. For over 40 years, staff at TRC has studied health issues in raptors. In addition, the faculty of The Raptor Center have appointments in the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota, a research university.

The University of Minnesota is a highly ranked public research university with a mission that encompasses research and

discovery, teaching and learning, and outreach and public service. A land-grant university, it supports research and discovery benefiting the conservation and management of Minnesota's natural resources. It has well-established systems and processes for management of research awards and financial oversight of grants.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
Project Manager		Project oversight, coordination, reporting			37.1%	0.1		\$21,958
Project and Partner Coordinator		Educational program content and adaptation for classes and events, program evaluation, partner/school communications			33.5%	0.4		\$28,894
Animal and Resource Manager		Raptor ambassador bird care and training, supervisory oversight of staff and travel			37.1%	0.1		\$8,928
Interpretive Naturalist		Conducting classroom programs: scheduling, delivering, and follow through work with teachers and students, as well as presenting at community events			33.5%	1.7		\$107,852
Communications and Outreach Specialist		Community event content support			33.5%	0.1		\$4,262
							Sub Total	\$171,894
Contracts and Services								
Evaluation Studies Program Consultant- TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Development and implementation of program evaluation for school and community event programs				0.1		\$16,000
Graphic Designer- TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Designer to create engaging printed materials, including posters for use in classrooms, activity books to give out at community events, and table banners.				0.1		\$7,000
							Sub Total	\$23,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Tools and Supplies	Animal food	Raptor food for live bird programming visits to schools and community events (estimated averaging approximately \$20 food					\$4,473

			materials/program or event for three-four raptor education programs)					
							Sub Total	\$4,473
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Mileage: Traveling to 70 schools, three times total (total of 210 trips), and 20 community events to deliver education programming. Estimated at 26300 miles of overall travel at \$0.67/mile	Travel mileage to schools and community events to deliver education programs					\$17,621
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Per diem and hotels: Hotels and meals for overnight trips to areas in greater Minnesota (approximately 32 overnight trips will be required)	Per diem and hotels so we can do trips to the greater Minnesota areas that (due to distance) require an overnight stay					\$5,712
							Sub Total	\$23,333
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
	Printing	Activity books for community events (1500 copies)	Printed books to hand out to family units so they can take home and continue activities after the event					\$4,500
	Printing	Posters (5 large, high durability posters to use at each classroom)	Posters to print and use during classroom activities and presentations					\$500
	Printing	Table banners (2 banners)	Banners to use for visibility at community events to engage and educate community members					\$300
							Sub Total	\$5,300
Other Expenses								

							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$228,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
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Non ENRTF Funds

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

Total Project Cost: \$228,000

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [ff9d5311-f58.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Photos of raptor education ambassador birds, bridging the connection between families and environmental education...

Supplemental Attachments

Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
UMN SPA Approval Letter	51615354-45d.pdf
Good Standing	55929f00-fed.pdf
Tax Exempt	adf4a9dd-562.pdf
UMN Annual Audit	93f53723-b84.pdf
UMN Board Reviewed Financials	ac0186e6-8ba.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

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

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

Does your project include the pre-design, design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other fixed capital asset costing \$10,000 or more or large-scale stream or wetland restoration?

No

Do you propose using an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to conduct a project that provides children's services (as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 299C.61 Subd.7 as "the provision of care, treatment, education, training, instruction, or recreation to children")?

Yes

Do you certify that background checks are performed for background check crimes, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 299C.61, Subd. 2, on all employees, contractors, and volunteers who have or may have access to a child to

whom children's services are provided by your organization?

Yes

Provide the name(s) and organization(s) of additional individuals assisting in the completion of this proposal:

Lori Arent (UMN-TRC), Catherine Boudreau (UMN-TRC), Melissa Moore (UMN-TRC)

