

## **Rock Island County Regional Office of Education Tyson Environmental Education Grants**

The Rock Island County Regional Office of Education, through a settlement from the Tyson Corporation, is awarding \$20,000 in grants of up to \$750 each to fund environmental education programs in the public schools of Rock Island County for the school year (2009-2010). The purpose of these grants is to offer environmental activities and services for pre-K through 12th grade students in Rock Island County. The grants can be used to purchase curriculum materials, environmental science education kits, schoolyard habitats, field experiences, and others which meet the funding criteria. There will be a limit of \$1,500 for any one building in the county whether the grant is for an individual or team of teachers.

### **Eligible Applicants**

Rock Island County public educators (preK-12) may apply for the grant as individuals or as a team. Teachers who received funding during the first or second round of grants are eligible, but priority will be given to new proposals. We encourage past grantees to submit a proposal - we will award as many of the quality projects as the funding will allow.

### **Application Deadline**

The application process will begin March 16, 2009. Applications must be submitted to the Rock Island County Regional Office of Education by July 17, 2009. Grants will be announced by August 14, 2009.

### **Application Guidelines:**

1. The proposed project should improve, enhance or introduce environmental activities into the schools of Rock Island County.
2. The project should request only eligible items for funding including equipment, books, program materials, schoolyard habitats, displays, guest speakers and/or field trip expenses. Please see scoring criteria for more guidelines.
3. The environmental project includes an evaluation plan to assess the effectiveness of the activities and materials provided by the grant funds.
4. The project may be funded up to \$750 for an individual teacher or \$1,500 for a school team consisting of two or more teachers. There is a limit of \$1,500 per school.
5. If the grant award is to be applied to the funding of a field experience, the grant must explain how the field experience will address the Illinois State Learning Standards in area 12.B. Also, it must ensure there is sufficient classroom instruction before and after the field experience. No field trips will be approved during the last few weeks of the school year.
6. The project must include a plan to assess the learning outcomes that are achieved as a result of the environmental activities. This plan must be outlined in the application.
7. Grant funds cannot be used for food or beverages or to reimburse any expenses incurred prior to the start of the grant period.
8. Priority will be given to activities that are sustainable and show promise of continuing after the grant period, especially if envisioned as an annual project.
9. An evaluation and expenditure report must be submitted to the Rock Island County Regional Office of Education three weeks after the completion of the grant activities or no later than May 14, 2010.

**Rock Island County Regional Office of Education  
Environmental Education Mini-Grant Application Form**

The following are criteria used to judge applications. Type your responses and attach to the cover letter. The original application plus three copies (all pages, including attachments) must be submitted to Amy Sandgren at the Rock Island County Regional Office of Education before 4:30 p.m. on Friday, July 17, 2009. Faxed copies will NOT be accepted. The application should be no more than five pages in length (excluding any attachments), single-spaced. Use standard layout with 12-point font and 1” margins.

- A. Describe the proposed environmental activities and/or related materials that will enhance student learning of science and environmental awareness.
- B. Define the student learning outcomes of the proposed environmental activity.
- C. Explain how the activities relate to current school curriculum (if not currently in curriculum, describe how it will be incorporated this school year and in the future).
- D. Specify the direct connection to the Illinois Learning Standards.
- E. Describe the assessment(s) planned for the students after the activity. How will you know what the students have learned?
- F. Describe plans for extending the activities beyond this school year.
- G. Explain how you will evaluate the project’s effectiveness.
- H. List your requested materials and other costs associated with your proposed project. Explain how your proposed budget items relate to the overall project. Use a table/spreadsheet similar to the one below for your budget.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Description/Purpose</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$</b>

**Rock Island County Regional Office of Education  
Environmental Education Mini-Grant Application  
Scoring Criteria & Funding Priorities**

The criteria below directly reflect the sections in your application. As you develop your application, make sure you are able to answer the following questions:

**A. Proposed Environmental Activities**

- How will the proposed activities enhance student learning of environmental issues?
- Do you provide detailed information about your proposed activity? For example: How will this activity enhance student learning? Who is involved (teachers, students, parents, others)? How many students will be impacted this year and beyond? What is the duration of the project? Do you include a timeline of activities? What resources are needed for this project?
- How do these activities meet current best practices of effective instruction?

**B. Student Learning Outcomes**

- What do you expect students to know and be able to do as a result of this project?
- Do you describe in detail the specific learning outcomes?
- How will the proposed activities address these outcomes?

**C. Relation of Activities to School Curriculum**

- How do the proposed activities relate to your current curriculum? If not currently in the curriculum, do you describe how these activities will become a part of the curriculum this school year and in the future?
- Is this an interdisciplinary project, part of the science curriculum alone, or part of another course? Describe how this project will be integrated into your current school year initiatives.

**D. Illinois Learning Standards**

- What learning standards do you address? Do you include Illinois Learning Standard 12B. in addition to other science standards or possibly standards in other subject areas for true integration?
- Do you describe the specific student activities and details of the learning standard rather than merely listing the standard itself? How will the standard be introduced into the project setting?

**E. Assessment of Student Learning**

- What is the assessment plan for the proposed activity? What type(s) of assessment(s) will be used to gauge student understanding of the proposed learning outcomes?
- How will you know what the students have learned?

**F. Sustainability**

- Will the activities impact a wide range of students long-term?
- How will the activities continue beyond the current school year?
- Will your activities impact students long-range or throughout the school year rather than a one-time or one-day event?

**G. Project Evaluation**

- How will you evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed activity?
- How will you use the student assessments to evaluate the overall project?
- In addition to student assessment, what other criteria will you use to determine the project's effectiveness?

#### H. Budget & Justification

- Do you provide an organized table or spreadsheet with the items requested, description of the purpose, and cost of each item?
- How will the requested materials support the proposed student learning outcomes?
- Do you provide justification relating your budget items with the impact they will have on student learning?
- Do you stay within the budget limit listed in this application (\$750 for individual applications or \$1,500 for team applications)?

**Questions?** Contact Amy Sandgren at the Rock Island County Regional Office of Education.

#### **Submit your application to:**

**Amy Sandgren:**  
Rock Island County Regional Office of Education  
3430 Avenue of the Cities  
Moline, IL 61265  
309-736-1111  
[amy.sandgren@riroe.k12.il.us](mailto:amy.sandgren@riroe.k12.il.us)  
<http://www.riroe.com>

#### **Final Report**

If your project is selected for funding, an evaluation and expenditure report is due three weeks after the completion of the grant activities or no later than May 14, 2010 to Amy Sandgren at the address above. Submit up to three typed pages (plus pictures or student artifacts) describing the activities completed.

Your final report should include the following:

- Description of the completed activities
- Pictures and other artifacts of student activities
- Assessment results
- Evaluation & effectiveness of activities
- Expenditure report including receipts, invoices, etc.

**Rock Island County Regional Office of Education  
Environmental Education Mini-Grant Cover Sheet  
2009-2010**

Project Cost: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's email: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Project Team Members (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ School Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

*Targeted student population:*

Grade Level(s)/Subject Area(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of students impacted this school year: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Completion Date: \_\_\_\_\_