

SEEF GRANT APPLICATION

Please review the [Grant Guidelines & Criteria](#), [Grant Program FAQs](#), and [Sample Completed Grant Application](#) before completing. You may also find it helpful to explore previous years' lists and summary booklets of awarded grants on the [Previous Grant Awards](#) webpage. Our [Scoring Rubric](#) illustrates how our Board of Directors scores applications to determine which proposals we fund.

Before completing this application, you must discuss with, and have the proposal approved by, your principal or supervisor to verify that funding for the project is not available from school or district budgets and that it meets the overall mission of the site or program. If you have a technology-based project, before submitting it you must receive approval from the Director of Instructional Technology to ensure that the equipment or software requested is supported by the school district. Allow plenty of time to obtain these approvals before the application deadline.

Application Deadlines for 2023-24 School Year:

September 23 for technology-based projects

September 29 for all other projects

If you have additional supporting documents or information to provide after submission, please email ShakopeeEdFoundation@gmail.com.

General Information

Project Title *

WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL 6TH GRADE SCIENCE - CARON PARK FIELD DAY EQUIPMENT

Applicant (primary contact) *

Matt Erdman and Tim Girdner

Applicant Position *

Educators

Contact Email *

merdman@shakopee.k12.mn.us tigirdner@shakopee.k12.mn.us

Contact Phone # *

6123002419 and 9523581789

School/Program *

- Pearson Early Learning Center
- Eagle Creek Elementary
- Red Oak Elementary
- Sun Path Elementary
- Sweeney Elementary
- East Middle School
- West Middle School
- Shakopee High School
- Tokata Learning Center
- Saber Online
- Other

Grade/Department *

6th Science

List all teachers/staff who will benefit from this project. *

All 6th grade students at West and all 6th grade teachers

Is your grant proposal technology-based, meaning would any part of your project interact with the building's network, hardware, or software? *

Yes

No

Unsure

Did you submit a Final Grant Report Form if you received a grant award in a previous grant cycle? *

Yes

No

N/A

Grant Proposal Details

Please describe your grant proposal by answering the following questions in as much detail as possible. Each of the bolded items represents evaluative criteria on our scoring rubric. As part of

the **Professional Presentation** evaluative criteria, please answer all questions, provide complete information, and check for errors before submitting your application.

Project Title *

Caron Park additional stations and field work

Provide a *Summary Statement* of two to three paragraphs to describe your proposal including the purpose/objective, rationale, target learners, and expected outcomes. (Your statement may be used in SEEF promotional communications.) *

We believe kids should be given opportunities to learn outside of the classroom, in nature, to help broaden their life skills and nurture concern for preserving our natural settings. The Caron Park Field Day we created is perfect to supplement the learning targets of sixth grade science. We put hand lenses and Rock Hammers in their hands, use technology to gather data on stream health, let them experience the results of glacial evidence. We include cross curricular experiences with each station. We take the learning from the classroom and get them into nature where they can apply their skills. We help foster a love for the outdoors and the wonder it holds for us all. For some, this is their first experience in a natural wooded environment. Our students leave the day of learning having a greater appreciation for the environment, gaining experience in gathering data, exploring their natural environment and learning the importance of natural resource management.

Innovation, Creativity & Uniqueness: Describe how your project will introduce new, creative, or innovative educational methods, materials, and/or technology to promote unique learning opportunities for students. *

Most students have not spent much time outdoors. The Caron Park field investigation that Tim and I created last year gives students an opportunity to explore and learn in the woods. During this investigation students have the opportunity to apply what was learned in the classroom to different stations found at Caron Park that we developed. We would like to add some additional experiences to this field investigation this year. Stations that we would like to add are soil test kits, soil tube, MN tree/wildflower, sweep nets for macroinvertebrates, and additional rock hammers and hand lens. These sustainable tools will allow for future investigations and station creations.

Educational Need: Describe how your project fulfills a specific and significant need and ties the need to student learning. *

In this field investigation, students will have the opportunity to take what they have learned in the classroom and apply it to real world situations. By conducting these different station activities, students will start building a better appreciation and understanding of the natural world around them. Most students do not have an opportunity to learn outside the classroom and in the outdoors. This unique field investigation allows students to experience this and try new things.

Student Impact: How many students will be affected by the project in its initial year? *

The students that will be affected by this project will be the entire West 6th grade which is roughly 300 students. We took both 6th grade teams last year on different days. Roughly about 150 per team at a time and are planning on doing this again. Students are broken up into advisories and rotate through stations every 15 minutes. Each group has about 17-20 students in the advisory.

Student Impact (continued): Based on the population identified in the proposal, describe how the number of students served is cost efficient and sustainable for future groups of students. *

The stations that have been created already are sustainable. The only one that has a cost is the pH water test which is pennies to conduct. With the addition of equipment that we are asking for, the only one that would have a cost is the soil test kit. This test kit comes with 50 nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium tests. One test kit is more than enough to last for 3-4 years. With everything else that we are asking for, it will be reusable each year as long as it lasts.

Evaluation Plan: State clear and measurable methods for assessing the degree to which the learning outcomes will be achieved. *

With the stations that were created last year and the new equipment that will be used from the SEEF grant a lot of exploratory learning will happen.

Last year we created a packet that students filled out at each station. This became a problem with students losing the packet or it getting wet. This year, students will just bring a phone or camera to take pictures at each station. They will conduct the experiments, observations, and tests but only take pictures on the field investigation of results directed by the leader of the group. There will be prepared questions for the leader to give and directions given to students for what they should be taking pictures of. When students are back at school, they will upload their images to a document and put together a slideshow of their findings. Students will also need to do some research based on what students took pictures of for identification purposes when they are back at school and present this to their peers.

In what ways will you acknowledge and promote SEEF's support for the project to students, staff, parents, and the community? *

In all correspondence with parents, colleges, state resources and staff, we will give credit to and include links and available information to promote SEEF. Our goal is to eventually include East Middle School which will broaden the scope of SEEF. We will promote SEEF with students and there will be a SEEF thank you in the permission slip that is sent out to parents for the field investigation.

Budget Narrative

Please include a reasonable, accurate, and detailed budget of all costs associated with your project. Grants are awarded up to \$2500. See the [Grant Guidelines & Criteria](#) for items we will NOT fund. To be considered, grant applications must show a list of exact costs. You may attach additional documents to your application to support your budget request.

Total Project Cost *

Amount Requested from SEEF: \$1594.05

Please list external sources of funding for your project. *

There was 5 dollar fee for busing last year and admin covered the rest.

Amount Requested from SEEF *

SEEF: \$1594.05

Would partial funding allow you to implement the project? *

Yes

No

If the project is intended to be ongoing, how will you support it when the grant funding ends? *

This will continue either way. By obtaining the additional funding for equipment will only enhance the student experience during this field investigation. All items and the quantity we have planned for are sustainable and non-consumable with the exception of the Soil Testing Kits.

*

Please list your specific budget, including a detailed breakdown of materials, equipment, supplies, etc., **in order of priority**. In the event your request is partially funded, we will consider your list in order of priority. Specific costs, not estimates, are required.

QTY: 15 @ \$19.80 Rock Hammer: Total Cost: \$297.00

Rock Pick - 28 oz Geological Hammer with Pointed Tip & Shock Reduction Grip - 11.4 Inch - Amazon.com

QTY: 15 @ \$6.95 Hand Lens: \$104.25

Amazon.com: HTS 202A0 10x 21mm Stainless Steel Jeweler's Singlet Loupe

QTY: 15 @ \$17.98 Soil Sample Tubes Total Cost: \$269.70

Amazon.com: HiHydro Soil Sampler Probe 12 Inch Stainless Steel with 2 Pcs Reusable Sample Bags, T-Style Handle Soil Test Kits Soil Probes for Soil Sampling Plant Care Garden Lawn Farm

QTY: 10 @ \$14.95 Sweep Nets: \$149.50 https://www.amazon.com/TickiT-Telescopic-Pond-Net-Lightweight/dp/B07DKFPRZ4/ref=sr_1_3?

[crd=3I9ZE1AW7MLZF&keywords=sweep+nets+for+water+macroinvertebrates&qid=1695651297&srefix=sweep+nets+for+water+macroinvertebrates%2Caps%2C128&sr=8-3](https://www.amazon.com/TickiT-Telescopic-Pond-Net-Lightweight/dp/B07DKFPRZ4/ref=sr_1_3?crd=3I9ZE1AW7MLZF&keywords=sweep+nets+for+water+macroinvertebrates&qid=1695651297&srefix=sweep+nets+for+water+macroinvertebrates%2Caps%2C128&sr=8-3)

QTY: 15 @ \$15.99 Soil ph/moisture/light/nutrient probe Total Cost: \$239.85

Amazon.com: Soil Moisture Meter,4-in-1 Soil Ph Meter, Soil Tester for Moisture, Light,Nutrients, pH,Soil Ph Test Kit, Great for Garden, Lawn, Farm, Indoor & Outdoor Use (No Battery Required)

QTY: 10 @ \$41.38 Soil Testing Kit: Total Cost: \$413.80

Soil Test Kit

QTY: 15 @ \$7.95 MN Trees and Wildflower Guide Total Cost: \$119.25

Minnesota Trees & Wildflowers: A Folding Pocket Guide to Familiar Plants (Wildlife and Nature Identification)

If you want to attach your own budget document, you may do so here.

Caron Park SEEF...

Grant Proposal Submission

By submitting this grant application, I confirm that I have met the conditions in the instructions, * including the following requirements (check all that apply):

- My school/program principal or supervisor reviewed and approved this proposal.
- The Director of Instructional Technology reviewed and approved this proposal (technology-based projects only).
- I will commit the time needed to conduct the work as described in the grant application and will complete the required Final Grant Report if awarded grant funds.

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