

NEWS RELEASE

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Wisconsin Environmental Education Board Awards Grants to Madison Area Institutions

The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB), located at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, will award 34 grants worth \$449,419. Projects comprise both statewide and grass roots initiatives. These initiatives enable the target audiences to obtain a better understanding of and appreciation for both the built and natural environments. Projects may begin on July 1, 2001 and may run through December 31, 2002.

Recent grant cycles reveal a strong interest in the program. The 88 proposals received this year requested a total of \$1,151,049. To date the Board has received over 1,200 proposals totaling over 13 million dollars. Public and nonpublic educational institutions, all units of government, and corporations (nonprofit, non-stock) are eligible for WEEB grants. Requests cannot exceed \$20,000. Projects must be designed for Wisconsin residents and assist learners in achieving the goals of environmental education.

Initiated in 1990, the WEEB's mission is to "provide leadership in the development of learning opportunities that empower Wisconsin citizens with the knowledge and skills needed to make wise environmental decisions and take responsible actions in their personal lives, work places, and communities."

Board members include State Representatives Neal Kedzie (Elkhorn) and Mark Miller (Monona) as well as State Senators Brian Burke (Milwaukee) and Sheila Harsdorf (River Falls). "Leadership on both sides of the aisle and in both houses of the legislature has been a critical component of our success," said WEEB chairperson Rick Koziel. Koziel is the Director of the Beaver Creek Reserve in Fall Creek.

For a complete list of this years applicants and description of recipients' projects please see our website <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/weeb/database/2001applicants.htm> and <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/weeb/database/2001recipients.htm>

For more information on the WEEB's environmental education grant program, including current grant opportunities, contact Administrative Liaison Ginny Carlton at (715) 346-3805. The email address is weeb@uwsp.edu

Aldo Leopold Nature Center-Monona

The Aldo Leopold Nature Center was awarded \$20,000 for a project entitled "Replicating Nature Net: Building regional networks of grassroots collaboration to improve environmental education throughout Wisconsin ". The goal for the project is connect nonformal and formal education sectors via workshops, professional support and interconnected websites. For more information contact the project director Kathe Crowley Conn, at (608)221-0404.

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Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources-Madison

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources was awarded \$12,797.00 for a project entitled "Linking WI State Parks Environmental Education with the Wisconsin Academic Standards". The grant will enable staff to analyze park programming to determine if and how they aid in achieving Wisconsin's model academic standards. For more information contact the project director, Debbie Beringer, at (608) 267-9351.

Friends of Wisconsin State Parks-Madison

This \$11,180 project, entitled "Expanding the Parks Packs Program to Include Great Lakes Park Packs", will support the development and distribution of backpacks containing water based activities for children ages 10-14 years who visit the state parks. For more information contact the project director, Debbie Beringer, at (608) 267-9351

Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin-Madison

The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin was awarded \$13,870 for a project entitled "Fostering a Sense of Wonder: The Project Learning Tree Early Childhood Program". The goal for the project is to work with early childhood educators to develop a program based on Project Learning Tree, and to train facilitators in its use. For more information contact the project director, Ciondy Jelenchick, at (608) 267-2463.

UW Madison: Department of Genetics-Madison

The Department of Genetics at UW Madison was awarded \$4,468 for a project entitled "Fish and Environmental Health: A Look at Aquatic Resources". The goals for the project are to hold a one week hands-on course for teachers to familiarize them with the concerns of protecting natural resources and public health, especially concerning the topic of contaminants in fish. For more information contact the project director, Raymond Kessel at (608) 265-4077.

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