

NEWS RELEASE

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Wisconsin Environmental Education Board Awards Grants to Eleven Central Wisconsin Programs

The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB), located at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, will award 37 grants worth \$467,018. 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 78 proposals received this year requested a total of \$1,036,066. 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."

For a complete list of this years applicants and description of recipients' projects please see our website

<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/weeb/database/2002%20applicants.htm> and

<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/weeb/database/2002recipients.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

Central Wisconsin Wildlife Center-Custer

The Central Wisconsin Wildlife Center will receive \$12,815 for a "Forest Life Traveling Classroom" program. This initiative will expand on the Center's previous outreach to third and fourth grade students (sponsorship of live animal presentations) by using games to teach first and second grade students about adaptations of animals that live in the forest. For more information contact Cheri Karch, at (715) 344-9608 x 200.

Midwest Renewable Energy Association-Custer

The Midwest Renewable Energy Association was awarded \$1,700 for a project entitled "Redesigning the Energy Cycle Display Board ". The goal for the project is to develop a visual display to accompany the energy cycle---a human-powered bicycle that teaches such energy concepts as efficiency, resistance, current, and voltage. For more information contact the project director Clay Sterling, at (715)592-6595.

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Becoming an Outdoors Woman-Stevens Point

A three-day workshop on prairie chicken ecology, the need for land conservation and the contributions of pioneering conservationists will be held for thirty science and biology teachers from four Central Wisconsin school districts. The workshop will provide teachers with hands-on experience in authentic field work as they participate in a prairie chicken census. For more information about this \$14, 184 project, contact Kelly Wisinski at (715) 346-4151.

Center for Land Use Education- Stevens Point

This \$5,000 project, entitled “Land Use Environmental Education in the Social Studies Curriculum,” will enable Wisconsin social studies teachers to participate in a 4-day workshop about land use planning. Teachers will receive resource materials, activity ideas, and then will facilitate the development of a conceptual framework . For more information contact Anna Haines (715) 346-2386 or Dennis Yockers (715) 346-4943.

Central Wisconsin Children’s Museum-Stevens Point

The “Life in a Log Museum Exhibit and Program” will allow pre-school and elementary school children to explore the layers of a log, learn about several log dwelling creatures and investigate how animals use logs for shelter. This \$19,205 project will create an oversized “rotting” log from steel, fiberglass, and foam. For more information contact Pamela Corcoran at (715) 344-2003.

Stevens Point Area School District-Stevens Point

The Stevens Point Area School District was awarded two grants. The first, “Pointing to the Sun” for \$7,550 will allow approximately 550 sixth grade students in ten elementary schools to build, test and race solar powered vehicles as they learn about renewable energy concepts. For more information contact Tim Wright, Science Curriculum Coordinator at (715) 343-6628. The second, “Integrated Environmental Learning Opportunities” will provide opportunities to integrate the science, art and technology curriculum by having Jackson School intermediate students plant and tend a garden and create a plant field guide. For more information contact Lyn Woehrer, Art Teacher, at (715) 345-5417.

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point: Central Wisconsin Groundwater Center

This organization was awarded two grants. The first, “Communities Conserving Water and Energy Through Groundwater Guardians” will provide Central Wisconsin residents with information about water and energy conservation. For more information about this \$5,255 project contact, Christine Mechenich at (715) 346-4276. The second award, \$4,810, will be used to “Energize the Wisconsin Groundwater Festival”. Through this event participants will make decisions about what can be done now and in the future to protect groundwater and conserve energy in their homes and schools. For more information about this initiative contact Denise Kilkenny-Tittle (715) 346-2722 or Mary Pardee (715) 346-4978.

Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education-Stevens Point

The Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education was awarded \$14,335 for a project entitled “Resources on the Web”. This new website will contain environmental education lesson plans divided by grade and subject categories. For more information contact Christy Allar (715) 346-2796.

Wisconsin Woodland Owners’ Association-Stevens Point

The \$12,123 award will be used to upgrade a website to allow woodland owners 24 hour access to information on a variety of sustainable forestry issues; develop new educational brochures and exhibit materials. For more information contact Nancy Bozek (715) 346-4798.

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