

NEWS RELEASE

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Wisconsin Environmental Education Board Awards Grants to Seven Madison Area Institutions

The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB), located at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, will award 49 grants worth \$451,969. Projects comprise both statewide and grass roots initiatives. These initiatives use a variety of topics to 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, 2003 and may run through December 31, 2004.

Recent grant cycles reveal a strong interest in the program. The 104 proposals received this year requested a total of \$1,071,421. Public and nonpublic educational institutions, all units of government, and corporations (nonprofit, non-stock) are eligible for WEEB grants. Requests for forestry and energy projects cannot exceed \$20,000. Requests for other topic areas cannot exceed \$5,000. 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."

Summary information regarding 2003-2004 Madison area recipients can be found below. For a complete list of this year's applicants and description of recipients' projects please see our website <http://cps.uwsp.edu/weeb/Grants.aspx>

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

Aldo Leopold Nature Center

The Aldo Leopold Nature Center will receive \$20,000 for a "Hands-On Energy Action Team (H.E.A.T.)" project.

The program will strengthen teacher training in the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) Energy Star Elementary Schools using the pilot-tested Project Learning Tree's Energy and Society Program. In addition, this project will provide energy-related class trips to Aldo Leopold Nature Center, which showcases renewable energy systems, building techniques, and natural and recycled materials that help us live compatibly with the rest of the environment. For more information contact Gail Epping at (608) 221-0495.

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Friends of Troy Gardens

A \$850 grant for a “Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Areas Restoration Youth Training Program” will provide support for eight low-income and/or minority youth of high school age to serve as interns at the Troy Community Farm and Troy Garden. The program is designed as an educational, service-learning and job training program that stresses job readiness skills, organic farming training, restoration management principles, team-building skills, marketing, and cooking/nutrition. For more information contact Sharon Lezberg at (608) 438-3334.

Madison Metropolitan School District

The Madison Metropolitan School District will use \$19,964 toward “A Research Connection: From the Classroom to Jackson School Forest” program. The goal is to promote district-wide implementation of the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards in both Environmental Education and Science by creating environmental research projects that engage both teachers and students in stewardship projects involving both classroom study and on-site data collection. For more information contact Lisa Wachtel at (608) 663-5216.

Monona Grove School District

A \$14,622 grant to the Monona Grove School District for “A Walk on the Wild Side of Norman Vethe School Forest” will allow for staff development in the use of standards-based instructional strategies and materials to maximize use of the forest for students’ benefit in environmental science education. For more information contact Renee Tennant at (608) 221-7679.

Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin

The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin received two grants. The first, for \$4,319 will result in the creation, production, and distribution of a two-sided poster to promote and explain the “Green Schools” initiative. The second grant, for \$20,000 will result in the creation, production, and distribution of a fourth grade level book on Wisconsin forest history. For more information about either of these projects contact Laurie Osterndorf at (608) 266-2182.

St. Benedict Center: Benedictine Life Foundation of Wisconsin

The \$5,000 award for “Ecological Restoration and Education Project” will enable college environmental studies students serving as interns at the Saint Benedict Center to increase the broader community's awareness of the purpose and benefits of ecological restoration. The interns will conduct research on the impact of our prairie and wetland restoration on area plant diversity, water quality and wildlife habitat. For more information contact Nancy Schlimgen at (608) 836-1631.

UW-Arboretum and McKay Center

The Arboretum will use their \$4,416 grant to conduct a “Young Naturalist Program.” This program for high school students will deepen participants' awareness of and relationship to the natural world, while providing opportunities for hands-on experience with restoration projects, as well as opportunities to teach younger students. For more information contact Molly Fifield Murray at (608) 262-5522.

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