

3/4/13 Clarified Request
w/ Jeff Crase via
E-mail: *gc*

Biddick, Inc (Trelay Farms)
11623 State Road 80
Livingston, WI 53554

The Elmer G. Biddick Charitable Foundation

10 February 2013
Junior High Science
Belmont Community Schools
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Belmont, WI 53510
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Jeff Crase
Teacher

The purpose of this organization is to support my curriculum for 8th grade science.
Grant Request \$1,500 - same as last year.

Describe the reason for this grant request:

I am hoping to take my eighth grade science class from the Belmont, Wisconsin, school district to Trees for Tomorrow in Eagle River, Wisconsin. Trees for Tomorrow is a fully accredited natural resource education site whose mission is "to deliver balanced, objective information on the management and use of trees, forests, water, and other natural resources." This experience is for four days and three nights. This will be my fifth year of attending Trees for Tomorrow and it has become a valuable part of my eighth grade science curriculum.

A. Supporting information

1. Specific use of grant:

I will use the grant money to take 8th grade students to Trees For Tomorrow to experience environments not found in Southwest Wisconsin and to interact and learn from the professional instructors at Trees for Tomorrow. While at Trees, the students are able to learn about and experience a bog, the different plants, trees and organisms that live in such an environment. Students also do a stream study in which they get hands on chance to sample aquatic habitats, collect and identify organisms that live in the stream, and diagnose water quality. Students also participate in a GPS workshop, night hike, radio telemetry, compass units, planetarium and other activities that promote stewardship and renewal of natural resources. For many of the students this is a first time experience. I use these experiences to extend what I already do in my

science curriculum. I have found that the amount of resources this experience offers cannot be replicated in my classroom or with my school's funds.

LAST Year 27 students

There are currently 14 seventh grades students that will be in eighth grade next year. I will take all eighth-grade students along with the special education teacher.

2. Time schedule:

We attend Trees for Tomorrow in the fall of each year, usually the last week of September.

3. Other Sources of funding:

The current cost to attend Trees for Tomorrow is \$ 155 per student. This is offset by a grant from Trees, which lowers the price to \$135 per student.

*155.00
x 14

2170 -
450

\$ 2620 -*

The transportation cost to Eagle River is \$ 450.

The total cost for this four-day outdoor education experience is approximately \$2600.

We try to offset some of this cost by selling, poinsettias, from Cushmans Greenhouse, and contact local businesses, service organizations and sportsmen clubs for donations.

\$ 700.00 in 2012

*\$ 600.00
IN 2012*

4. Effect of postponing request:

My goal is that going to Trees for Tomorrow will not be a budget concern to the Belmont School district or to the parents of students attending Trees.

Any money awarded by the Elmer G Biddick Foundation would be used to offset the cost of attending Trees for Tomorrow for each of my students.

5. Describe who, when, how, and where will the effects of this grant be felt:

The 8th grade students of the Belmont school district attending Trees for Tomorrow have the opportunity to learn about different ecosystems; experience nature up close, and it is truly an educational experience they will never forget. The workshops they attend provide them with a valuable hands-on approach to science. Even though Trees for Tomorrow is located in northern Wisconsin, everything that they learn is easily adapted to southwest Wisconsin environment.

It is my hope that this experience will lead the next generation to protect, enhance and enjoy our state's natural resources. I believe the Trees experience does that and more.

B. Your organization's history, activities, services, and composition.

I have taken students to Trees to Tomorrow for the last 4 years. The first year there was money in the high school science club, which I was able to use because there is no longer a high school science club. We currently do not have the money to attend Trees for Tomorrow for the 2013 school year. With the school budget and economic conditions the way they are, any grant money would be deeply appreciated because our schools and economy will not be able to fund such an experience for my students.

Attending Trees for Tomorrow has broadened my science curriculum and has enhanced the learning of the students. We have used many of the ideas from Trees to expand the Belmont Prairie (located next to the school) as well as our small forest. It has also helped our community because I have incorporated a stream study unit, similar to that at Trees, which is followed up by the cleaning up of our local stream in Belmont. The services this opportunity will render in the future is only a guess, but I have seen increased awareness and received many positive parental comments about the change in appreciation of the students who have attended the Trees for Tomorrow outdoor education experience.

Thank you for your consideration of this grant application.

Sincerely,

Jeff Crase

Belmont Schools