

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

April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015. Spoke with  
Jeff Crase and told him the grant  
request would be considered at  
next foundation meeting. gr

## The Elmer G. Biddick Charitable Foundation

WO # 268

March 25, 2015  
Junior High Science  
Belmont Community Schools  
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Jeff Crase  
Teacher

The purpose of this organization is to support my 8<sup>th</sup> grade science curriculum by attending Trees for Tomorrow.  
Grant Request \$1,500

### **Describe the reason for this grant request:**

I am hoping to continue to take the 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 seventh year of attending Trees for Tomorrow and it has become a valuable part of my eighth grade science curriculum. When talking to former students what they remember about junior high science, the educational experience at "Trees" always gets brought up.

### **A. Supporting information**

#### **1. Specific use of grant:**

I will use the grant money to take 8<sup>th</sup> 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. The last two years students have helped clear the under brush in a forest as well as plant new seedlings. Students also participate in a GPS workshop, night hike, 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 all ready 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.

There are currently 23 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.

The transportation cost to Eagle River is \$ 450.

The total cost for this four-day outdoor education experience is approximately \$2970.

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.

## **4. Effect of postponing request:**

My goal is that going to Trees for Tomorrow will not be a major budget concern to the Belmont School district or a financial burden to the parents of students attending Trees. With the help of your generous contribution the cost to individual students has been minimal. (Spending money for treats and Pizza Hut on the way home)

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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 6 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. With the school budget and economic conditions the way they are, any grant money would be deeply appreciated.

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. Last spring we started the second phase of our plan to plant a small rain garden next to the school. This has been built to reduce some of the run off from the school's roof and parking lot. 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 which we do each spring. The experience of "Trees" and the opportunities it will render for my students in the future is only a guess, but I have seen an increased awareness in environmental issues and have received many positive parental comments about the change in appreciation of nature the students who have attended the Trees for Tomorrow outdoor education experience.

Thank you for your past support and consideration of this years grant application.

Sincerely,

Jeff Crase

Belmont Schools