



2017 Environmental Education Mini-Grant Program

Background

Formed in 1985, Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with the mission *to be the voice and active force for a healthy and scenic Rappahannock River*. We cooperate with a wide variety of stakeholders to educate about the river, advocate for actions and policies that will protect its waters, and restore the conditions that make the Rappahannock unique and valuable.

In 2015 FOR was awarded an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Education grant to provide greater access to environmental education and student stewardship opportunities in the Rappahannock River Watershed.

As a part of the larger program, FOR is offering \$22,700 in mini-grants to schools, 501(c)3 non-profits, and other eligible entities to support student-centered projects and activities related to environmental education. Through this program FOR will award approximately 10-20 mini-grants to be awarded throughout 2017.

Eligibility

Grant awards are limited to eligible entities including 501c3 non-profit organizations, soil and water conservation districts, K-12 schools, community colleges, and other institutes of higher learning in the geographic region of the Rappahannock River Watershed. All entities must be located in the United States. All entities must be able and eligible to receive funds (no fiscal sponsorship of other entities).

Deadline to Apply

Nov. 30, 2016

Award Notification

Wednesday Jan. 11, 2017

Award Amount

Minimum: \$500

Maximum: \$5,000

Target Award Amount: \$2,500

Grant Application:

<http://www.riverfriends.org/grant>

Project Guidelines and Requirements

Organizations should be located in and provide environmental education activities, programs, or services within the Rappahannock River watershed; or directly benefit communities or populations of students in the Rappahannock River watershed. Projects that do not involve either students from or activities in the Rappahannock River watershed will not be considered.

If you are applying for funds for an on the ground project, please provide a letter of support from the appropriate head of department (principal or maintenance manager).

For a map of the Rappahannock watershed go to <http://www.riverfriends.org/watershedmaps>

Priorities

This mini-grant program seeks to engage participants in quality environmental education activities with a focus on water quality, stream ecology, STEM activities, research, and field based stewardship projects. Preference will be given to projects that meet one or both of these priorities.

Examples

Project examples include but are not limited to:

- Purchase of water quality monitoring equipment for student field activities
- Purchase of supplies or materials for outdoor classrooms
- Transportation costs and substitute teacher costs for school field trips involving environmental education activities

Reporting Requirements

A final report will be due one month after the completion of the project as outlined in the grant application and will be no later than November 30, 2017. This report will include a brief narrative of the project or program, a summary of how the funds were spent, and copies of any photos or materials generated with use of grant funds. Any unused funds at the completion of the grant must be returned to Friends of the Rappahannock.

Restrictions

- Funding cannot be used for construction, contracting, or administration costs.
- Staff time is allowed as a percentage of awards, but preference will be given to awards that directly benefit the target population.
- This funding is not meant to cover the costs of training or professional development.
- Lobbying, political campaigns, religious activities, and associated activities are not permitted under this grant program.
- Applicant organizations are limited to one proposal.
- Funds cannot be used for mandatory mitigation or routine maintenance

For additional information about this program or how to apply please send an email to education@riverfriends.org No Phone Calls Please.