



2012-13 Educational Grant Application
Deadline: Wednesday, March 7, 2012, by 4pm

Name of Grant: Eco literacy Project at Connemara Nature Conservancy

Name of person(s) submitted by: Jennifer Chapates

Campus/Department: Norton Elementary

Grade Level(s): K-6

Total Dollar Amount Requested: \$220.00

Number of students who would be involved/impacted by grant: approximately 600

Name of principal or immediate supervisor who will approve submission: Gayle Smith

Project Summary/Purpose: Be specific. What is the **student need** which the project will address? The purpose should describe **what students will know and be able to do** as a result of this project. Please explain how a problem will be addressed or a situation improved because of the grant. **(200 words or less)**

The purpose of this project is to increase all students' understanding of Science using Connemara Nature Conservancy as our classroom. During our 4 annual field trips to Connemara, students will hone their Science processing skills by observing organisms in their natural habitat, recording measurements using scientific tools, collecting, recording, and analyzing data collected in the field, making predictions, and making comparisons between different organisms, areas of the meadow, or landforms. Students will take information they collect back to the classroom and will extend their learning to Math, Social Studies, Writing, and/or Reading. Students will also gain a sense of the community in which they live which will increase their desire to take care of the environment throughout their lives.

Students will improve in making connections between their classroom learning and real-world application. Often, students do not connect information when the learning setting changes. As a result of this project, teachers will see students apply classroom learning more reliably throughout their content areas.

Project Description: How will the project or program be implemented? Describe activities and tasks. Who is the target population and in what ways will they benefit? **(200 words or less)**

All of students at Norton in grades K-6 will take 4 field trips to Connemara during the school year, 2 trips per semester. Each classroom teacher will design the lesson around a TEK specific to their curriculum at that time in the pacing calendar. The activity may be learning about Life Science, such as collecting organisms from the pond to draw, observe, and compare or creating sound maps by listening to animals and man-made noises to infer what the land would have been like before people populated the area. Physical Science activities may include testing the quality of the water in the pond or collecting samples of rocks to test their physical properties. An Earth Science activity may be doing a scavenger hunt for signs of weathering, erosion, and deposition, observing moon phases, or talking about forces that shaped the creek area.

Students will benefit because all of these activities will be carried out using the scientific skills that they will use throughout their education and possibly their careers. As a nation, the amount of time we spend outdoors is decreasing at a time when we need to change our environmental practices the most. The students at Norton will always remember their trips to Connemara and will have a greater appreciation of this area because of their understanding of this unique resource.

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Allen ISD Goals/TEKS: Which Allen ISD goals/TEKS does this project support? Limit to top two or three examples. **(50 words or less)**

1. AISD has a goal of expanding learning beyond the classroom. This project supports this to a T.
2. Students will gain a sense of community due their sense of ownership of this Conservancy.
3. Students are actively engaged when they learn outdoors because it is out of the ordinary routine.

Measurements: What specific measurements will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the project? **(100 words or less)**

The effectiveness of this project will ultimately be measured on AISD's 4th grade EOC Science test and the 5th Grade STAAR test. On a smaller scale, teachers of students in other grades should see improved grades in all subject areas when they use the information that students collected at Connemara in other content areas. Long term, the students from Norton should score better on standardized testing throughout their education because they will be highly engaged in Science because of their experiences at Connemara.

Teaching Methods: What teaching methods will be used to implement this project? **(100 words or less)**

Teachers will facilitate student observations, encourage student collaboration, and pose higher-order questions to students to encourage greater understanding and application of knowledge gained as a result of outdoor study. Students will record observations and measurements in their journals for extended learning back at the classroom. They will also use technology to record videos, take pictures, and analyze data collected in the field. We can touch on all aspects of STEM in education, using our outdoor classroom.

Timeline for project: Funds will be available after September 1, 2012. **(50 words or less)**

The project will include 2 field trips in the first semester (October and November) and 2 in the 2nd semester (February and April). Specific dates will be set at the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year.

Curriculum/System Support: Explain how this idea or project enhances/supports Allen ISD curriculum or existing systems. **(100 words or less)**

The Science curriculum requires a minimum of 50% of our class time to be spent doing investigations either in the classroom or outdoors. It is difficult to accomplish this requirement inside schools or outside on manicured and maintained school grounds. With this project, Norton students will have a great opportunity to learn about their world in the field where it is a more natural setting. Students will greatly expand their learning beyond the classroom, be actively engaged, and gain a sense of community while doing activities that interest them.

Additional Comments: Include any additional comments or information. **(100 words or less)**

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Grant Budget: specific product numbers, vendor addresses, etc. **are not required** on this budget page. The name of the product or the type of training or estimated cost of transportation is sufficient. ***Please round numbers to the nearest dollar amount.**

Instructional Supplies	Vendor / Supplier	Cost per Item	Total
Technology	Vendor / Supplier	Cost per Item	Total
Staff Dev / Training	Vendor / Supplier	Cost per Item	Total
Transportation	Vendor / Supplier	Cost per Item	Total
1 bus all day	AISD	\$55 per day	\$220
(Wheelchair bus may be necessary for certain grades)			
Other Expenses	Vendor / Supplier	Cost per Item	Total
TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED			\$220.00

Outside Funds: Are there any additional funds available for this grant? Campus or district funds? PTA funds? If you have or will be seeking funds from any other sources to help with this project, please explain. **N/A**