

The Center for Community Partnerships, with support from the Wisconsin Coastal Management Grant Program, is seeking individuals interested in developing innovative educational programs and research agendas to implement at the Root River Environmental Education Community Center (REC)¹. The REC is located at 1301 6th Street in Racine and is a partnership with the City of Racine Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department. The primary goals of the REC are as follows:



1. Increase and improve environmental education opportunities available to the general public, PK-16 educators, and elementary, secondary, and postsecondary students.
2. Foster and support interdisciplinary environmental research opportunities for PK-16 students and faculty and environmental organizations.
3. Demonstrate innovative, ecologically sound residential, recreational, and commercial products and business practices.
4. Build awareness and appreciation for the Great Lakes ecosystem and connected watersheds.

We are seeking proposals from a variety of disciplinary perspectives and/or interdisciplinary perspectives. This document outlines the a) how to submit a proposal and what the proposal should include, b) benefits for participation in this initiative, c) design specifications the educational programs, and d) a project timeline.

Proposal Submission:

Proposals should be submitted to John Skalbeck and can be emailed to skalbeck@uwp.edu. Proposals should be no more than 1-2 pages in length and should include the following:

Section A: Contact Information

Section B: Educational Program Description: this section should include a description of a program that meets the required program specifications (see below).

Section C: Future Research Description: this section should be conceived of as a “wish list” and should include a description of a future research initiative that could be aligned with the goals of the REC. Please include a description of the proposed research, a list of supplies and equipment, and the costs associated with the proposed research. (This information will guide us in seeking additional financial resources for program expansion at the REC).

¹ The Wisconsin Coastal Management Grant focuses program development efforts on the REC Center; our hope is that educational programming developed through this process will also be made available at the Center for Environmental Education, Demonstration, and Applied Research (CEDAR) once renovations are complete at the Southport Beach House in Kenosha.

Benefits

- \$750 stipend
- \$250 supplies and equipment allocation
- Opportunities for involving students in learning in a community-based setting
- Opportunities for advancing research in a community-based setting
- Connections to future funding opportunities

Required Design Specifications

Educational program proposals should be designed to:

- meet one or more of the goals outlined above;
- be relevant and age appropriate for an audience of middle school students;
- expose students to the natural environment;
- include a “lesson plan” that enables facilitation of the program by an individual who is not a specialist in the area (i.e., pre-service teacher, college student or volunteer);
- connect to Wisconsin Model Academic Standards in the relevant content area (established by the Department of Public Instruction and available at: <http://dpi.wi.gov/standards/>);
- take less than 2 hours to facilitate.

Recommended Design Specifications

The following specifications are not required of every proposal, but we hope that contributors will consider how these elements will strengthen the program and incorporate these ideas if possible.

- Interdisciplinary approaches;
- Involvement of middle school teachers, pre-service teacher education students, and/or community partners in the development of the program;
- Adaptation of the program for wider audiences (i.e., adults, younger students, high school students, etc.)

Project Timeline

October 19, 2007	Proposals Due
October 24, 2007	Initial Meeting with Contributors (noon-1 pm, GRNQ 344)
May 30, 2008	Educational Plans Due
June 30, 2008	Future Research Plans Due

Thank you for considering making a contribution to this initiative. If you have any questions, please contact John Skalbeck at 595-2490 (skalbeck@uwp.edu) or Tom Schnaubelt at 595-3340 (thomas.schnaubelt@uwp.edu).