

Fundraising for your Earthwatch Expedition

Bringing a student group on an Earthwatch expedition is a worthwhile and rewarding vehicle that foundations, companies and private donors are seeking out. Not only is Earthwatch a respected non-profit organization but communicating the message of both environmental awareness and service learning to students continues to be a valuable attribute in seeking alternative funding.

Getting Started.

1. Identify Different Types of Grants

- Environmental Education
- Research fellowships
- Multicultural Immersion
- Summer Travel

2. Who Funds Grants

- Private Foundations
- Philanthropists
- Community Organizations
- Corporations
- United States Government

Writing a Successful Grant.

Know your grant. – read the information carefully

- Why is the grant being offered?
 - o What is the mission/goal of the funder
 - o Read all the information on the funder's website
- Who is the ideal candidate/ Are you eligible?
 - o Grants will specify all who can apply
 - o Read carefully and call the organization if you are unsure
- What documentation is needed?
 - o Will you need signatures from your principal or superintendent?

- Will your principal or superintendent need to pledge some level of support should you win?
- Do you need a budget?
- Do you need statistics about the make up of your school?

- Who needs to be on board to make your proposal happen?
 - If you win the grant do you have all the people and/or tools to make it happen?
 - This about your proposal – this is essentially your promise to the funder of what you will do with the funds.

- What is the grant timetable?
 - DEADLINES – be aware collecting the information needed can take time. Plan in advance.
 - When will the grant recipients be announced?
 - When will you need to provide feedback upon your return?

References

Carefully selecting references is a key component to any grant application. Grants ask for specific information from references so ensure all components are answered before submitting your proposal. A good reference has clear concise language, evidence that supports its claims, obvious support of the proposal. This is not a place to tone down your achievements but rather to bring them to the forefront.

What are Funder's Looking For?

Funders are seeking out proposals that are aligned to their mission or goals. They often show preference for activities that benefit their local community and involve a multiplier effect causing an impact on the most number of people. In return for their investment, they often are looking for exposure or publicity for their generosity and results. This can often be done through newspaper articles or presentations. A large emphasis is also put on outcomes that arise from the experience such as integration into your curriculum or community projects upon your groups return.

Funding Sources

www.donorschoose.org

This organization is dedicated to addressing the scarcity and inequitable distribution of learning materials and experiences in our public schools. Donors choose will improve public education by engaging citizens in an online marketplace where teachers describe and individuals can fund specific student projects. This grant is available to all teachers in all states who teach in public schools. The application is available online.

[Lowes Outdoor Classroom Grant](#)

This grant provides schools with additional resources to improve their science curriculum by engaging students in hands on experiences outside the traditional classroom. All k-12 public schools in the United States are welcome to apply.

[Toyota Tapestry Grant](#)

This grant has grants available to K-12 teacher of science in the United States. The categories for applicants are Physical Science, Environmental Education, and Integrating Literacy and Science.

www.fundforteachers.org

These grants are awarded to teachers working with students K-12. Teachers submit proposals detailing how their fellowship will make them a better teachers and how their improved skills are to be implemented in the classroom, benefiting students, curricula and school. The mission for this organization is to foster opportunities that bring fresh perspective, expertise and broad world knowledge into classrooms.

www.armadaproject.org

This is funded by the National Science Foundation to provide K-12 teachers an opportunity to actively participate in ocean, polar, and environmental science research and peer mentoring. Teachers develop ways to bring the fruits of their research experiences including scientific methodology and technology into their classrooms. They share their experience by mentoring new teachers in their school districts and presenting their results at the NSTA conventions.

Additional Funding

- Most major companies have a community outreach contact or foundation and funds allocated for service learning or environmental efforts.
 - o <http://sa-eapp.org/fieldtripgrants/rules.php>
 - o <http://www.stonyfield.com/AboutUs/ProfitsForThePlanetProgram.cfm>
- Be sure the company/store is in your community
- Check their websites for official programs
- Send a letter on school stationery requesting a donation (see other attachment)
- Check and see if any of your student's parents are employees.

Traditional Fundraising

- <http://www.fundraising.com/>
- <http://content.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=1392>
- http://www.education-world.com/a_admin/archives/funding.shtml

Sources for Identifying Additional Grants

Community foundation Locator

<http://www.teacherscount.org/teacher/grants.shtml>

www.grantsalert.com/gsfm

www.unc.edu/depts/cmse/grantopp.html

www.neafoundation.org

www.foundationcenter.org

<http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html>

<http://www.scholastic.com/lexus/>

Misc Information on fundraising

<http://teachers.net/gazette/MAR08/hamlin/>