



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2020 Approved Work Plan

General Information

ID Number: 2020-001

Staff Lead: Rory Anderson

Date this document submitted to LCCMR: August 13, 2021

Project Title: 375 Underserved Youth Learn Minnesota Ecosystems By Canoe

Project Budget: \$375,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Beth Becker

Organization: YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities

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Project Reporting

Date Work Plan Approved by LCCMR: August 13, 2021

Reporting Schedule: April 1 / October 1 of each year.

Project Completion: July 31, 2024

Final Report Due Date: September 14, 2024

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 05f

Appropriation Language: \$375,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities to connect approximately 375 underserved and diverse teens from urban areas and first-ring suburbs to environmental sciences in the natural world through canoeing and learning expeditions with experienced outdoor education counselors. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2025, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2025

Narrative

Project Summary: Increase opportunity for 375 underserved, diverse teens, from urban and first-ring suburbs, to experience and connect to environmental sciences in the natural world through YMCA canoeing/learning expeditions with experienced

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

We propose to EXPAND this leadership and environmental education program to an additional 375 disadvantaged teens (most from YMCA after-school and teen programs) who, without funding, might never see the Minnesota wilderness. Youth will live immersed in nature with goals that they gain an appreciation of the Minnesota Wilderness and then use their knowledge and future leadership to use and preserve outdoor spaces.

The program was born of a recognition that youth were facing an equity gap in the cities and not participating in outdoor activities, and had little access the true Minnesota wilderness. A survey conducted in 2013 of youth through non-profit organizations in the cities indicated that 89% of youth stated they did not participate in outdoor activities, but they wanted to. In 2015 the YMCA began operation of this program to give underserved, diverse youth experiences in the wilderness. Today the program has grown to serve over 300 teens each summer, and is the second largest YMCA program of its kind in the nation.

Providing this opportunity for urban teens will advance the understanding of environmental ethics in our diverse communities and build community-wide integration of conservation, as well as ongoing participation in stewardship of

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? i.e. What are you seeking funding to do? You will be asked to expand on this in Activities and Milestones.

We are expanding this program because many any underserved youth are unaware of the value of our Minnesota wilderness, or how the loss of habitats will affect their future lives. They have had little or no experience in the outdoors. These at risk and underserved kids do not have the means to travel in nature without financial assistance.

On these expeditions youth will have some fun and an opportunity to experience nature firsthand, and see the world that exists beyond the sights, sounds, and smells of the city. Using the YMCA curriculum, they will:

- Learn camp craft and how to leave a small footprint in nature.
- Study wildlife and its natural habitat.
- Learn about native plants as pollinators and food sources.
- Learn about careers in natural resources, ecotourism, and environmental science.
- Gain experiences that will inspire further support, study, and volunteer service for the preservation of Minnesota wilderness.
- Develop lifelong leadership skills.

Expanding this program for an additional 375 underserved youth ages 12-17 will allow a total of 650 youth to camp and canoe through the natural laboratory of Minnesota's lakes, rivers, and forest areas investigating bio-systems and seeing firsthand both pristine and environmentally impacted areas.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

Our goal is to expand our program to add an additional 375 teens who have few opportunities to experience nature, camping, or gain knowledge of Minnesota's wilderness. These youth would not be able to participate without financial assistance. Minnesota benefits as youth participants from underserved communities, who would not have this opportunity without financial aid, will understand the impact they have on the environment and gain a lifelong conservation ethic.

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Region(s): Metro

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Statewide

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: An additional 375 youth from underserved communities will be awarded scholarships to access the program to learn and explore nature.

Activity Budget: \$187,500

Activity Description:

The YMCA will provide scholarships for 375 youth over 3 years, from underserved communities so they can have the opportunity to access a wilderness experience. The program takes place on wilderness trips (approximately 25 trips annually June through August, average trip days is 12, with 9-12 participants accompanied by 2-3 counselors). Data is collected for each trip, and is available for reporting throughout the year, cumulative reports done annually. Registration for the program begins in January of each year.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
75 youth will receive scholarship to the program in year one	June 30, 2022
Outcome data will be collected for each trip, and a cumulative report made annually	June 30, 2022
150 youth will receive scholarship to the program in year 2	June 30, 2023
Outcome data will be collected for each trip, and a cumulative report made annually	June 30, 2023
375 youth will have accessed the program by year 3.	June 30, 2024
85% of participants will gain new appreciation and knowledge of nature, environment and preservation.	June 30, 2024
85% of youth demonstrate learned camp craft and leaving a small footprint	June 30, 2024
150 youth will receive scholarship to the program in year 3	June 30, 2024
Outcome data will be collected for each trip, and a cumulative report made annually	June 30, 2024

Activity 2: Staffing of the project

Activity Budget: \$187,500

Activity Description:

Support for the program staff point person who will manage all staff support and campers and camper family registration and needs, program operations, and evaluation collection.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Project Staffing @ .6 FTE will provide program support	June 30, 2022
Project Staffing @ .6 FTE will provide program support	June 30, 2023
Project Staffing @ .6 FTE will provide program support	June 30, 2024

Dissemination

Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.

The YMCA will share outcomes of the project through reports and collected stories and surveys from participants to leadership, in marketing/outreach, and on social media. Program outcomes are used to inform program progress and program change, as well as provide information to potential funders.

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this be funded?

Program outcome evaluation will provide the YMCA a solid basis for leveraging sustainable funding going forward. The YMCA will use the outcome data to engage funders through foundation and corporate grants, annual giving, events and sponsorships to help sustain this program at the greater capacity.

Note* this application is not in any way related to our 2021 application.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
1 program staff		.6 FTE staff x 3 years, will support program operations, campers and camper families			10%	1.8		\$187,500
							Sub Total	\$187,500
Contracts and Services								
							Sub Total	-
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-

Other Expenses								
		Scholarships for 375 youth from underserved communities	Scholarships directly support costs of trips for each youth. Includes food, camp site supplies, curriculum consumables, first aid, gear, and transportation to and from base camp.(average trip @ 12 days); 8-10 youth (on average) per trip: Food, snacks x 375 campers x \$65/day @ 12 days = \$292,500.00 additional costs: (1) curriculum supplies (\$5/camper x 375 = \$1,875), 2) Camp making supplies, water purify chemicals, tents, insect repellent, propane/pellets,(\$20/camper x 375 = \$7,500). 3) Camp/canoeing supplies and equipment e.g. tents, canoes, paddles, stoves, (annual maintenance \$5,000 x 3 yrs = \$15,000). We also provide loaner sleeping bags, suitable backpacks for portage, and other necessary items as needed by participants including clothing and hiking footwear (these are maintained by the program and provided by in-kind and other resources). Twelve days is an average trip, they range from 6-17 days. 10 youth (on average) per trip: Food, snacks x 10 campers (\$65/day @ 12 days = \$7,800) x 25 trips = \$195,000.00					\$187,500
							Sub Total	\$187,500
							Grand Total	\$375,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
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Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
			Non State Sub Total	-
			Funds Total	-

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [8d556997-dda.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

The YMCA camping program will provide scholarships for youth from underserved populations who will have the opportunity to canoe and camp in pristine Minnesota wilderness. The map indicates the three launching sites for the trips. Visual depicts campers in canoes on their wilderness journey....

Financial Capacity

File: [63cf51e9-baa.pdf](#)

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
375 Underserved Youth Learn Minnesota Ecosystem by Canoe	29e251de-0c0.pdf

Optional Attachments

Support Letter or Other

Title	File
Audited Financials	3ddb5841-9f8.pdf
Background Checks	eb0070c4-767.pdf

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

work plan has been edited to provide outcomes, staffing and detail by project year, and cumulative.

Additional Acknowledgements and Conditions:

The following are acknowledgements and conditions beyond those already included in the above workplan:

Do you understand and acknowledge the ENRTF repayment requirements if the use of capital equipment changes?

N/A

Do you agree travel expenses must follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?

N/A

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, or sale of products and assets?

No

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

N/A

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?

N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

YMCA ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION BY CANOE



Engaging urban teens from the 7-county Twin Cities area to experience outdoor learning to build life-long conservation ethics.



