



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

M.L. 2020 ENRTF Work Plan (Main Document)

Today's Date: 11/25/2019

Date of Next Status Update Report: April 1, 2021

Date of Work Plan Approval:

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2023

Does this submission include an amendment request? __

PROJECT TITLE: 375 Underserved Youth learn Minnesota Ecosystems by Canoe

Project Manager: Kurt Simer

Organization: YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities

Mailing Address: 651 Nicollet Mall, Suite 500

City, State, Zip Code: Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402

Project Manager Direct Telephone Number: 612-465-0552

Email Address: kurt.simer@ymcamn.org

Web Address: ymcamn.org

Location: Statewide

Total Project Budget: \$375,000

Amount Spent: \$0

Balance: \$375,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2020, Chp. xx, Sec. xx, Subd. xx

Appropriation Language:

PROJECT STATEMENT:

This YMCA project engages urban teens from diverse communities of the Twin Cities' 7-county area to provide them access to outdoor experiences. They travel from the cities to one of three base camps, where they launch.

The YMCA's current program takes 300 teens by canoe through Minnesota wilderness to learn about environmental and conservation issues, and practice leaving a small footprint.

We propose to expand the program to an additional 375 urban teens (most from YMCA after-school and teen programs) who, without funding, might never see Minnesota wilderness. For six days they live immersed in nature where they gain connection and learn the worth of preserving habitats, reducing their footprint, and practicing life-long conservation ethics.

Many urban and first-ring suburban youth are unaware of the value of our Minnesota wilderness, or how the loss of habitats, and increased carbon emissions will affect their future lives. They live in unsafe neighborhoods, have had little or no experience in the outdoors. These kids do not have the means to travel in nature without financial assistance.

On these expeditions youth will have some fun too and ponder new questions: Which is brighter? Stars or street lights? Which smells worse? Garbage or skunk? Twin City's teens will have a chance to experience nature first-hand and see the world that exists beyond the sounds, smells, and sights of the city.

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.

Expanding this program to an additional 375 underserved youth ages 12-17 will allow a total of 675 youth to camp and canoe through the natural laboratory of Minnesota's lakes, rivers and forest areas investigating bio-systems and seeing first-hand both pristine and environmentally impacted areas. 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 life-long conservation ethic.

II. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

See below

III. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1 Title: Expansion of program to serve 375 additional urban teens to learn environmental impact issues and stewardship skills in the Minnesota wilderness.

Description: Each summer, over three years, 125 teens (375 over 3 years) will travel and learn about Minnesota ecosystems through canoeing expeditions. Our goal is to increase opportunity for underserved youth to participate, increasing our capacity by an additional 375 underserved youth. These youth would not be able to participate without financial assistance.

On these expeditions youth will ponder the BIG questions: Which is brighter? Stars or street lights? Which smells worse? Garbage or skunk? Youth will learn camp craft and how to leave a small footprint in nature. They will study wildlife and its natural habitat, and learn about native plants as pollinators and food sources. These experiences will inspire further study and volunteer service. Youth will also learn about careers in natural resources, ecotourism, and environmental science.

At the most basic level, this program provides these youth a chance to experience nature first hand and see the world that exists beyond the sounds, smells and sights of the city. The program also fosters environmental awareness and appreciation of Minnesota's natural beauty. At the end of the program youth participants will understand the impact they can have on the environment now and in the future gaining a long-lasting conservation ethic.

Outreach to youth from urban and first-ring suburbs begins early in the year to engage middle and high school youth for the program. Youth hear from peers who are past participants and program staff. Teachers support the outdoor education components as well. More than 86 languages are spoken in our urban and first-ring suburbs twin cities high schools. The youth in our program all face barriers to college acceptance, enrollment, and degree attainment. These barriers due to income, race, first-generation status, or other reasons. Of the youth in our program, 89% are young people of color, and 90% would be the first in their families to attend college. Youth in this program are between the ages of 12-17. We target these communities to provide access and remove barriers for youth from low-income, diverse families to participate.

We will engage these teens (ages 12-17) on canoeing expeditions that will occur on the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway and in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Younger participants (age 12-13) will go on expeditions on the St. Croix River, while our older participants (age 14-17) will go on 5-day to 8-day trips in the Boundary Waters. For many, it is their first time outside a city, and away from their family. We engage youth who would not have this access to camping or nature and make it accessible.

Beginning Day 1 at base camp, participants are introduced to their wilderness classroom as they learn basic skills of building their shelter, fire, and the first rules of leaving a small footprint in the forest and waterways. They pack and leave base camp for their first night in the forest. The Outdoor Learning Program begins with observation of habitats, and environment of pristine wilderness. Most impactful is a youth's first sight of a starry night sky without the filter of city lights. The Outdoor Learning Program is adapted to each trip, time of year, and age/stage of the participants. The outdoor learning topics include: Animal Studies, Boreal Black Bears, Glacial Geology, Forest Studies, Freshwater Studies, Eco-Hike, Global Citizenship, Map & Compass, Night Hike, The Night Sky, Environmental Simulation, Canoeing, Ojibwa Heritage, Teambuilding, Predator & Prey, Voyageurs of the North, Wilderness Survival, Wolves of the North, and Birds of the North Woods.

Our goals and objectives for this program are:

- 1) Improve understanding of the environment
 - a. 80% of participants will report improved understanding of the environment, learned from activities related to wildlife, aquatic life, pollution, and ecosystems.
 - b. 80% of participants will demonstrate learned environmental concepts through team building and reflection activities.
- 2) Increased conservation values and environmental stewardship
 - a. 80% of participants will report increased conservation values and learned environmental stewardship tactics.
 - b. 80% of participants will demonstrate conservation values through recycling, "leave no track" practices, coastline preservation and composting.
 - c. Outcomes are measured through counselor observation, and participant survey.

Outcomes are measured through counselor observation, and participant survey.

The program purpose, “to develop, in young people, respect for self, community and the environment, through wilderness adventure and environmental education,” is the foundation for the program. Participants, with the guidance of skilled leaders, experience independence and self-sufficiency as they work with peers toward a common goal.

ACTIVITY 1 ENRTF BUDGET: \$375,000

Outcome	Completion Date
<i>1. YR 1: 125 Youth indicate increased understanding of ecosystems, pollution, and forest fragmentation</i>	<i>7/01/2021</i>
<i>2. YR 1: 125 Youth indicate increased conservation values and environmental stewardship</i>	<i>7/01/2021</i>
<i>3. YR 2: 125 Youth indicate increased understanding of ecosystems, pollution, and forest</i>	<i>7/01/2022</i>
<i>4 YR 2: 125 Youth indicate increased conservation values and environmental stewardship behaviors</i>	<i>7/01/2022</i>
<i>5. YR 3: 125 Youth indicate increased understanding of ecosystems, pollution, and forest</i>	<i>6/30/2023</i>
<i>6. YR 3: 125 Youth indicate increased conservation values and environmental stewardship behaviors</i>	<i>6/30/2023</i>

First Update April 1, 2021

Second Update October 1, 2021

Third Update April 1, 2022

Fourth Update October 1, 2022

Fifth Update April 1, 2023

Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2023

IV. DISSEMINATION:

Description:

Participant registration collects personal data, including demographic information, economic need and etc. These metrics are maintained securely in our data base, and reported out as a cumulative number and/or percentage. If used, any shared pictures have the permission of parents/guardians.

Program information may be shared publically through an online annual report, in program brochures, newspaper, radio, and social media. Reports to LCCMR will made according to the requirements of the grant.

The Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) will be acknowledged through use of the trust fund logo or attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, signage, and other communications per the [ENRTF Acknowledgement Guidelines](#).

First Update April 1, 2021

Second Update October 1, 2021

Third Update April 1, 2022

Fourth Update October 1, 2022

Fifth Update April 1, 2023

Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2023

V. ADDITIONAL BUDGET INFORMATION:

A. Personnel and Capital Expenditures

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$5,000: NA

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff:

Total Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Directly Funded with this ENRTF Appropriation:

Enter Total Estimated Personnel Hours for entire duration of project: 3467	Divide total personnel hours by 2,080 hours in 1 yr = TOTAL FTE: 1248 hours/ .60 FTE
--	--

Total Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation:

Enter Total Estimated Contract Personnel Hours for entire duration of project: NA	Divide total contract hours by 2,080 hours in 1 yr = TOTAL FTE: NA
---	--

VI. PROJECT PARTNERS:

- A. Partners outside of project manager’s organization receiving ENRTF funding - NONE
- B. Partners outside of project manager’s organization NOT receiving ENRTF funding
 - a. Learning Works
 - b. Hiawatha Academies
 - c. Venture Academy
 - d. LEAP High School
 - e. EmpowHer (Northfield based)
 - f. Bolder Options
 - g. Project Success
 - h. Hmong American Partnership
 - i. St. Paul Police Athletic League

These partners send youth to the program. They will not be funded by the ENRTF. Their contribution referral, and most send a chaperone with the youth to and from base camp providing a smooth transition for students who have never experienced time in nature before, and for many never away from home overnight.

VII. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:

This funding will help us expand our capacity to engage youth with barriers to participation and access to programs like this. This capacity building will also provide outcome data and engagement tactics that will support further funding opportunities to sustain the program.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

- Project status update reports will be submitted April 1 and October 1 each year of the project
- A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2023

IX. SEE ADDITIONAL WORK PLAN COMPONENTS:

A. Budget Spreadsheet

B. Visual Component or Map

C. Parcel List Spreadsheet – N/A

D. Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration Requirements – N/A

E. Research Addendum – N/A

Attachment A: Project Budget Spreadsheet
 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
 M.L. 2020 Budget Spreadsheet



Legal Citation:
 Project Manager: Kurt Simer
 Project Title: 375 Underserved Youth learn Minnesota Ecosystems by Canoe
 Organization: YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities
 Project Budget: \$375,000
 Project Length and Completion Date: 3 years - June 30, 2023
 Today's Date: 08/22/2019

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET		Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	
BUDGET ITEM					
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)		\$ 127,500	\$ -	\$ 127,500	
Program Director, .80 FTE (\$53,000 @ .80 FTE + 30% Fringe/shared cost with YMCA)					
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Equipment/Tools/Supplies					
Capital Expenditures Over \$5,000		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Fee Title Acquisition		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Easement Acquisition		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Professional Services for Acquisition		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Printing					
Travel expenses in Minnesota					
Other					
375 underserved youth @ \$110/day x 6 days = \$297,000 Direct expenses: food, consumables (maps, first aid, curriculum supplies) camping equipment		\$ 247,500	\$ -	\$ 247,500	
COLUMN TOTAL		\$ 375,000	\$ -	\$ 375,000	
SOURCE AND USE OF OTHER FUNDS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT					
	Status (secured or pending)	Budget	Spent	Balance	
Trained Counselors (Annual Giving, grants, corporate giving)		Pending	\$ 210,000	\$ 210,000	
Non-State: Canoes, paddles, camping equipment, tents, first and last day at base-camp, (secured by annual giving contributions)		Pending	\$ 52,000	\$ -	\$ 52,000
In kind: Base Camp Day 1 X 375 teens, training facilities, 1 meal @ \$50 (secured by annual fund contributions, supported by base camps budget)		Pending	\$ 22,500	\$ -	\$ 22,500
Transportation of youth to base-camps		Pending	\$ 763,200	\$ 763,200	
Marketing Outreach (grants, annual giving)		Pending	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	
SOURCE, OTHER FUNDS TOTAL			\$ 1,053,700		
State:			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Program Coordinator (requesting capacity building addition)\$53,000 @.80FTE x 3		Pending	\$ 127,500	\$ 127,500	
375 underserved youth (over 3 years) @110.00/day x 6 days - \$247.500		Pending	\$ 247,500	\$ 247,500	
STATE TOTAL			\$ 375,000		
Other ENRTF APPROPRIATIONS AWARDED IN THE LAST SIX YEARS					
	Amount legally obligated but not yet spent	Budget	Spent	Balance	
None			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

