

# 2012 Grantmaking Plan

## **Introduction**

The Innovations in Environmental Education (IEE) Fund was founded in 2007 to support El Dorado County teachers and educators in bringing innovative environmental education to our local schools. The benefactor of the IEE Fund, Bob Massad, was a champion of environmental education and had a passion for encouraging teachers to bring environmental literacy to their students. Bob passed away in the summer of 2010, and the fund has since been administered by the American River Conservancy.

Working with an advisory committee made up primarily of El Dorado County teachers and educators, the Conservancy's IEE Fund awards grants twice a year. Priority will go to projects which foster appreciation for environment, watersheds, and habitat in a manner that protects the natural resources and beauty of our area, and promotes interaction with our social communities and natural environment. Projects which largely take place outside of the classroom will have precedence.

## **Goal**

IEE helps teachers introduce innovative environmental education programs to their students. Favoring innovative proposals that stress interaction with our human community and integrate environmental education into the curriculum, IEE supports projects that are largely carried out beyond the classroom.

Our goal is that such programs will have enhanced impact on the students' view of the role we play in habitat degradation and encourage their interest in methods by which we as a community can lessen our impact.

## **Objectives**

- Support area teachers in developing innovative environmental education programming that goes beyond the classroom.
- Encourage thematic integration of environmental education into regular school curriculum.
- Build and maintain a support network for teachers to communicate and collaborate with colleagues and expand environmental education on a county-wide scale.

## **Strategy**

The committee has determined a twin foci for the grants: 1) grants that support teachers in bringing innovative EE programs to their students, and 2) grants that support non-profits in capacity building for teachers (including training, collaboration and community building related to our mission).

The twin foci of the program allows the IEE Fund to clearly target its goals of both supporting teachers' efforts and developing a strong and supportive network of teachers committed to environmental education in El Dorado county. This contributes to the sustainability of environmental education provisions overall.

Request for Proposals (RFP) will be announced twice a year and distributed through school administration, press releases, and the Quail Call (an environmental education newsletter sent to all El Dorado County teachers). RFPs announce the due date for proposals and also provide a guide to preparing a proposal for funding.

IEE will not necessarily award the full amount of the grant award. If other resources or funds have been acquired please note this in the grant proposal. Partnerships and other resources brought into the project are viewed favorably in the grant review.

### **Qualifications**

To be eligible, the following criteria must be met:

- Be a teacher, administrator, or educator (other staff member) at a public/private K-12 school in El Dorado County, California, **or**
- Be a parent volunteer, **with a letter of support from a school administrator**, at a public/private K-12 school in El Dorado County, **or**
- Be a non-profit institution that provides programming to El Dorado County schools, AND has a focus on environmental education curriculum. *See limits for non-profit funding in the 'strategies' section.*

**Any grant from a school must have a letter of support from the principal or appropriate school administrator.**

### **Previous and Current Grantees**

IEE will accept applications for the same or similar programs which received funding the prior year. If the program was funded in past years, the grant proposal must show how feedback was used to improve the program. A strong proposal in consecutive years must show how the program has evolved and strengthened over time, and how it has brought in additional teachers and partnerships, thus expanding the reach environmental education in the area. Funding is not guaranteed for the same project year after year.

## **Program Operations**

### **Budget**

The total award amount for the IEE Fund may fluctuate from year to year. In our early stages, we anticipate total funds of between \$8,000 and \$20,000 annually. Grants ranging from \$400 to \$4000 will be considered. If you have a compelling project which might require more funding, please contact Kathryn Hayes.

### **Timeline**

RFPs for the grant will be released near the start of each school semester: one in the spring, the other in the fall. Deadlines to submit grant proposals will accompany the release of the RFP, and award announcement usually follow within a month of the application deadline.

### **Application and Review Process**

Applications will be received electronically, via email provided in the RFP. The Fund does not accept hard copies.

The Fund is made up of a committee of volunteer teachers, educators and community members whose purpose is to review grant applications and selects grantees.

Upon completion of the grant period, the grantee is required to submit a final grant report to the committee for review. The committee uses the final grant report as feedback for grant operations and

to determine success of the program. For applicants who wish to apply for the same program again, the final grant report provides the committee with important insights as to the viability of a program.