Amount Requested

$6680

Proposal Summary

Kids Involved in Conservation (KIIC) is a student run project led by members of Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE). The main objective of this project is to cultivate a desire to recycle and conserve energy in elementary level students and to provide positive role models. To do so, project members develop curriculum that addresses the topics of sustainability, energy, conservation, recycling, waste, capital and more. This curriculum is then implemented by KIIC members through workshops in cooperating schools. Thus far, KIIC has traveled to the rural villages of Anderson, Arctic Circle, Galena and Nenana with their workshops. It is the goal of KIIC to prepare a quality curriculum that can be distributed to both local and rural schools to raise efforts in conservation in the state of Alaska, one child at a time.

Technical Advisors and Collaborators

Sherri Wall, Term Instructor in Economics, is the faculty advisor for SIFE, it’s sub-group Students Who Enjoy Economic Thinking (SWEET) and KIIC.

Budget Detail

Travel: $4680

Plane Tickets: $4600
Gas Expenses: $80

Supplies: $1200

Camera: $200
Craft Supplies: $900
Crayons: $20
Color Pencils: $30
Color Paper: $20
Glue Sticks: $10
Hot Glue Refill: $20
Staplers: $20
Scissors: $20
Clear tape: $40
Cardboard Squares: $100
Dry Erase Markers: $420
Miscellaneous: $100

Manila Envelopes: $100

Services: $800

Printing Services: $500
Postage: $300
Budget Justification

The travel expenses consist of an estimated four plane tickets to rural villages for three members. This is the ideal number of people to manage a workshop with one teaching, one assisting, and another recording observations and taking photos.

The estimated gas expenses are intended for reimbursements to members for trips to local schools or Andersen, a rural village that is approximately a two hour drive away. This cost may also include gas expenses incurred through trips to purchase supplies for KIIC activities.

The supplies expense for a camera is included because KIIC has yet to have a fully documented workshop. Photos and video of the workshop will be necessary for follow-up reports, annual reports and presentations for SIFE competitions, flyers and for recruiting new members.

The craft supplies listed are necessary to provide hands-on activities through which students can learn how to apply conservation concepts on their own. The primary expenses lie in the purchase of cardboard squares, clear tape, and dry erase markers. These items will be used by students to create their own dry erase board at the start of class rather than use paper for the activities. The markers would be returned to SIFE-KIIC members at the end of the workshop to be used in other classes. The remaining supplies listed are to be used in creating a toy out of recycled goods that will be provided by KIIC members.

The miscellaneous supplies listed are referring to any additional craft items such as colored pipe cleaners, fake eyes and other similar items. While these are not a requirement, they serve to hold the attention of students and raise their interests.

The estimated printing services amount is intended for the purpose of printing flyers for recruitment of members to KIIC. It is our intention of advertise KIIC’s activities to the UAF School of Education and the rest of the student body through the posting of flyers around the campus.

The estimated postage services are included as a cost of an incentive plan in development. Students will be asked to mail documentation of accomplished sustainability goals to KIIC members. Due to the costly shipping prices of shipping to and from rural villages, this is not an expense we feel comfortable leaving to the families of the students. Research is currently being done on effect prepaid envelopes to lower the cost. We foresee twenty mailings per student during the process of the ten step incentive program in development.

Project Value

The value of this project lies in its benefits to the students who volunteer to teach, the elementary level students whom they teach and their families whom their values affect. The students who teach the workshops are given the opportunity to be a professional on a subject, conservation. One must be at least a semi-professional in order to effectively teach a subject. Students who volunteer with KIIC create lesson plans, perform outreach work with rural villages, are exposed to cultures that they might not otherwise have encountered and are able to make a difference in a child’s life. Our members understand that, even if 19 out of a class of 20 don’t care about conservation after one of our workshops, the one that we interested is all that it takes to make a success.

This project is meant to cultivate the interests of these students and guide them to develop sustainable habits early on in their lives. Like exercise, good study skills, and good manners, if an individual experiences conservation at its fullest, they are more likely to maintain those habits in their adult life. In addition, the families of these students will be encouraged to participate in their children’s activities. Ideally, we hope to alter the families’ sustainability habits by educating their children.
The benefit to UAF students lies in the opportunity to become a part of this project. SIFE is an open club as is the KIIC project. We do prefer students interested in teaching, conservation and are good with children but KIIC has tasks for all types of students and for every major.

**Implementation Plan**

Kids Involved in Conservation is already an active project with a reputation being built among rural schools and future trips in the planning process. However, the project is undergoing some remodeling to ensure that the project itself is sustainable. A single workshop in a village located miles away from a recycling center is not enough to benefit anyone. A workshop may interest one student but, without additional visits or motivation, they may never act on that interest.

The first step in remodeling KIIC is to make the lesson plans more applicable to local school district run classrooms but still flexible enough for the mixed classrooms encountered in the rural schools. This will require a great deal of administrative work. KIIC members intend to have all existing lesson plans completely remodeled and reviewed by the end of the current school year, Spring semester of 2011.

To bring KIIC workshops in to the local schools, KIIC is attempting to develop a partnership with The Watershed School as well as K & K Recycling. The Watershed School, a Fairbanks charter school that is currently making conservation and recycling a primary goal of their school, is possibly the best entrance for KIIC into the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District. By working with K & K recycling, KIIC members hope to utilize some of the recycled goods that they receive in workshop art activities. However, in the event that KIIC is not able to perform workshops with students at The Watershed School, they will continue to take their workshops primarily to rural villages. To account for inability of KIIC members to travel to these villages more consistently, an incentive program is being developed to encourage students to maintain conservation habits in the absence of role models.

This incentive program will consist of ten goals for students to accomplish related to sustainability. Students will meet the goal, provide as much documentation as they possibly can, write a letter to KIIC members with a teacher or parent signature and mail it all to KIIC members. After going through the package, KIIC members will write a return letter and provide a reward for the completion of the goal. As the goals become more difficult, the rewards will become more grandiose. For instance, the first goal may be to make a list of every item at a student’s desk including their desk and chair. Students will also be asked to list some of the materials used to make those items with a focus on what contains oil or resources pulled from tree materials. The reward for this first goal might be a booklet of word searches and puzzles with a conservation theme. The mailings themselves will provide motivation to the students because, at their age, to receive an item in the mail is something to talk about for a month. If this incentive program is successful in its first year, a second level will be created for students wishing to continue their participation.

At the end of the academic year, KIIC members will review the progress of the incentive program, the workshops, and the curriculum. Provided that there is sufficient impact on the students and their communities, KIIC members will begin development of middle school curriculum and an incentive program appropriate for middle school students. Following middle school, high school curriculum will be developed. Once high school curriculum has been finished and reviewed, KIIC members will fill out paperwork to propose KIIC curriculum as a pilot course in FNSBSD high schools.

The individuals responsible for the implementation of this project are the KIIC members themselves. The Project Manager will perform a majority of the outreach and management tasks. KIIC members will write and edit lesson plans as well as utilize them during workshops. The faculty advisor will assist with organizing trips to rural villages but members will organize local visits.
Qualifications & Experience

The three members currently involved in KIIC have the following qualifications and experience. The project manager is a double major in Elementary Education and Business Administration. School of Education coursework and fieldwork experience is immediately utilized in the development of KIIC lesson plans. Two out of three of the members have experience working with children through volunteer work as well as previous employment in daycares and camps. The third member has extensive experience with marketing and design. In addition, all three members have experience volunteering through other groups.

Group/Department

Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE)

Sustainability Area

Education and Curriculum, Social Sustainability

Supporting Documentation (if provided) follows: