



NEEF Greening STEM Grant for Educators Request for Proposals

The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) believes that the natural world offers a compelling and universal context for investigations and applications of many STEM lessons, through an approach we call [Greening STEM](#). Immersing students in the applications of Greening STEM locally, through place-based learning, provides a more familiar context for subject matter, grounding what students are learning in their immediate surroundings and helping them make connections between the environment and their own lives. Public lands and waterways provide an ideal outdoor classroom for place-based, Greening STEM education. To learn more about how environmental education helps build creative thinking and relationship skills, fosters leadership qualities, and makes school subjects rich and relevant, please see "[Benefits of Environmental Education](#)."

NEEF, with major funding support from Samsung, is offering a total of \$12,000 in funding to educators in the New York City/northern New Jersey area and the Washington DC metro area for programs that support the integration of Greening STEM into place-based, hands-on learning experiences on a public land or waterway. Grants will range in size from \$1,000 to \$5,000 each.

Through these grants, NEEF will support educators who are leading the way in place-based, Greening STEM education on public lands and provide support for continued development and innovation within these programs. Applicants should describe current place-based Greening STEM programs they are involved in and any existing educational connections with local public lands. Applicants should explain how grant funds will be used towards the expansion of existing programs or the introduction of new programs. Applicants should also clearly show how these programs will be financially and programmatically sustainable. Exemplary applicants will show how grant funds will be used to create lasting impact among students and challenge them to address environmental issues at both a local and global scale. Exemplary applicants will also show how funded programs will impact other members of the community. Special attention will be given to projects administered through afterschool programming. Applicants should show strong support from school administration and/or any partnering organization in the form of a letter of support. This may include, but is not limited to non-profit partners, public land sites, or other organizations.

Eligibility

Applicant must:

- Teach K-12 students in an educational setting in the United States or eligible U.S. jurisdiction;
- Be an employee of a school district or informal education institution; and
- Anticipate a teaching assignment between April and December 2017.

Proposed programming must take place within the New York City/northern New Jersey area or the Washington DC/Baltimore metro area.

Previous grantees are eligible to apply for this grant.

Criteria for Grant Selection

The below criteria are the basis for reviewing and scoring applications. Applications are scored to develop recommendations. Top scores are then reviewed and final decisions are made.

Successful applications will:

- Demonstrate that the applicant has been successful in previously implementing place-based Greening STEM programming;
- Demonstrate the intention of the applicant to continue the success and improvement of Greening STEM programming at their school or organization;
- Demonstrate the intent of the place-based learning model to increase student awareness or understanding of the public land site
- Demonstrate how proposed programming will be financially and programmatically sustainable;
- Demonstrate how proposed programming will fit into school, district, or state standards, or where applicable, program mission;
- Demonstrate student and/or community impact as a direct effect of proposed programming; and
- Demonstrate school administration, program director, and/or partner organization support for current and proposed Greening STEM programming in the form of a letter of support.

Special attention will be given to programming that fits one or more of the following tracks:

- *The New American Landscape*: providing environmental engagement opportunities for urban and underserved populations
- *Tectonic Shifts in Technology*: using technology to enhance environmental education experiences and pioneer innovative teaching methods
- *Facing Environmental Threats*: addressing environmental threats and challenges through education and increased preparedness
- *Building Sustainable Communities*: expanding educational and environmental impact through community connections

More information on each of these tracks can be found in [NEEF's Environmental Literacy Report](#).

Funding Guidelines and Restrictions

Grants funds can be used to cover costs associated with delivering programs (e.g., curriculum/materials development, field trips, program supplies, transportation, professional development, etc.), as long as the result of the funding creates lasting impact beyond the single event/use.

Please note that NEEF prefers that the proposed budget not solely cover staff salary or consulting fees. If it does, please provide clear justification along with the percentage of time staff members will be putting towards the project.

Grant funds cannot be used for:

- Conducting lobbying, carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation;
- Influencing the outcome of any specific election through any means;
- Purposes other than charitable, scientific, or educational;
- Budget shortfalls, general support, or endowment funds;
- Land acquisition or real estate purchases;
- Individual scholarships or fellowships;
- Federal staff time;
- Reimbursement purposes (i.e., to cover costs associated with events or activities that have already occurred);
- Any costs not directly related to the funds requested in the proposal.

Timeline

Applications Open: February 14, 2017
 Applications Due: March 14, 2017
 Grant Period: April 24, 2017 – December 31, 2017
 Final Report Due: January 31, 2017

Submission

Applications are accepted *only* through our online application system. Follow these steps to apply:

1. Create an account in our [online](#) system. This will take you to the home screen.
2. To start your application, click **Apply** on the left hand column. The **Greening STEM Grant for Educators** will appear. Select it to begin your application.
3. Once you have completed the application, click **Submit Form**. If you do not click Submit Form, you will not have applied. You will be directed to a confirmation screen upon submitting.

Applications are due by 11:59pm CT on March 14, 2017. If you have any questions or problems, please contact us at grantsadmin@neefusa.org.

Please note that by submitting this application, you authorize NEEF and its partners to share your story as part of, but not limited to, [National Environmental Education Week](#) (April 23-29, 2017).

Glossary

The definitions below are meant to help clarify terms in relation to the intention of this grant. These definitions are specific to this grant and do not necessarily apply as stated to other areas of NEEF's work.

Greening STEM—Teaching science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) lessons or concepts with an environmental focus or within an environmental context. Using the environment to draw real world connections to the applications of STEM learning. Learn more through the [Greening STEM Learning Center](#).

afterschool/out-of-school—Any setting that offers educational opportunities beyond the confinement of a classroom or a typical class period. An afterschool or out-of-school program can be run through a school or have direct connections to a school, but should be defined by the purpose of the program or the setting rather than the requirements of a school.

place-based learning—educational lessons or activities that use the local environment or community as a base for learning and investigation. Successful place-based learning utilizes **hands-on learning**, whereby learners are actively participating in exploring and understanding their surroundings in order to develop and answer questions, make connections, and recognize their own relationships to the subject matter.