

To: Environmental Quality Education Committee

RE: Environmental Project Grant

PROJECT TITLE: **OUTDOOR CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE SUPPLY TRUNK**

CONTACT NAME: **NELDA TUCKER**

POSITION **EDUCATIONAL DIRECTOR**

ORGANIZATION: **OUTDOOR CLASSROOM/EDUCATIONAL CENTER**

SPONSOR: **NORTH FORK OF RED RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

FINANCE OFFICER: **NELDA TUCKER 580.928.9950**

FEI # **73-XXXXXXX**

NAME OF GRANT **EE PROJECT**

ADDRESS: **802 C NE HWY 66**

CITY, ZIP **SAYRE, OK 73662**

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GRADE LEVELS/NUMBER **KINDERGARTEN – COLLEGE/ 500**

## **OVERVIEW**

The resource trunk will furnish equipment to be used at the Outdoor Classroom to provide lessons for students. The classroom has excellent facilities. The equipment is needed to enhance the opportunities that would be available for teachers and students. Lessons, field trips and excursions are being developed for all age groups. The classroom is open to all civic groups, youth groups, and students of public, private and home schools. The objective of the site is to provide an educational environment in which students can develop an understanding and appreciation for all the natural systems within the environment which are critical to the continued existence of a healthy environment in this area. With all the emphasis being geared toward the movement of “No Child Left Inside”, the classroom is an excellent resource for those developing curriculums. The equipment will be a great asset to implementing the accomplishment of our objective.

## **DESCRIPTION**

The strategies of the Outdoor Classroom include providing an understanding of water and water quality, soils and soil conservation, trees and forested ecosystem, interaction of water, soil, forest, and wildlife and the role of upland flood control structures and their environmental benefits. The equipment in the resource trunk is tools with which these strategies can be implemented. The classroom and the equipment will provide “hands on” experience for young people to get “down and dirty” in the environment. Anytime that a student can be exposed to a different climate and experience real situations outside the normal classroom, learning becomes a quest instead of a “have to “. The trunk will provide the necessary items to carry out PASS skill based lessons. The lessons will be in line with the instructional subjects the teachers are stressing. The classroom and the resource trunk is also an excellent opportunity to use community volunteers to educate the students. The volunteers will be professionals, retired educators, and members of various civic groups. “It takes a village to raise a child” can be promoted to the fullest potential by using the Classroom complete with its own resource trunk.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVE**

One goal of the project is to expose any and all students to the concepts of being good stewards of the environment. The second goal of the project is to provide another resource for the teachers to implement lessons with the instructional objectives and PASS objectives in a unique setting. The classroom is located within a fifteen minute drive of fifteen schools, therefore it provides a quick and economical field trip to enhance what is presented in the classroom. The educational instructors will be provided resources that they cannot possibly acquire in their normal setting. The third goal is to expose the children to a new way of thinking about the pleasure of learning while experiencing the “great outdoors”. Every child that makes use of the equipment of the resource trunk in the setting of the outdoor classroom will take away a new mind set.

## IMPLEMENTATION

Lessons will be prepared for the teachers complete with objectives, PASS skills and National Standards. The Outdoor Classroom will be promoted in brochures, letters, and teacher in-service. The instructor will set a time and date and the lesson will be presented in alignment with their lesson plans. The experience can be an hour, a half-day or a full-day one. The students will conduct studies and activities that require active participation of each person, team work and group efforts. The resource trunk will also provide equipment for Natural Resource Days for all the fifth graders in the conservation district. The Natural Resource Day is promoted by letters to all the schools teachers and administrators, follow-up notifications and agendas of the day

## TIMELINE

January 2008	Purchase of equipment and containers
	Prepare and distribute brochures providing information about the resource trunk
February 2008	Organize, label and provide storage for trunk
March 2008	Contact teachers and group leaders to schedule activities
April 2008	Natural Resource Day for Fifth Graders
May 2008	Schedule Spring field trips
	Promote summer activities for summer youth programs
	Plan summer day camps
June 2008	Schedule summer activities
July 2008	Plan and provide teacher in service using equipment
August 2008	Begin promotion campaign for next school year
September 2008	Plan fall field trips and activities

Equipment will be taken care of and used as long as functional.

## BUDGET

**Total Expenses - 498.23**

ITEM	VENDOR	PRICE	QUAN	TOTAL COST
Prism Microscope	Acorn Naturalist	79.95 ea	2	159.90
3x Pocket Magnifier	Acorn	2.80 ea	20	56.00
Watershed Field Trip	Acorn	72.95 ea	1	72.95
Aquatic Net	Acorn	16.95 ea	5	84.75
Insect Net	Acorn	16.95 ea	5	84.75
Wildlife Identification by Sound	Acorn	34.95	1	34.95

493.30

Shipping costs 10%

4.93

Acorn Naturalists

155 El Camino Real

Tustin, CA 92780

Fax 80.452.2802

[www.acornnaturalists.com](http://www.acornnaturalists.com)

## EVALUATION

The project will be evaluated with teacher evaluations forms and student evaluation forms as well as student performance instruments designed by the Educational Director and the teacher. The teacher and student evaluations will be used to indicate the effectiveness of the tools in the resource trunk. The performance instruments will be an indicator of the effectiveness of the lesson.

The resource trunk will enhance the instruction level of the material presented at the classroom. The proper tools make the experience better. The trunk will also demonstrate to the students, the proper tools and the procedures for environmental activities.

The resource trunk will be maintained for an extended period of time because the tools are of the nature that they can be used a number of times by many groups of students. The equipment will be supervised and repaired as needed.

