

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a senior at Centre College in Danville, Kentucky and have worked as an intern for Clark's Run Environmental and Education Corporation (CREEC), a nonprofit organization in Danville, for almost two years. I am also member of the Bonner Program on campus, which is actively involved in community outreach. My current passions and future career goals all fall within the field of environmental studies. With my interests in mind, Centre professor and CREEC board member Dr. Preston Miles suggested that I apply for the Campus Community Partnership Grant funded by the Associated Colleges of the South and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. In preparing this proposal, I have worked closely with Dr. Miles and have incorporated many ideas suggested to me by CREEC president Rose-Marie Roessler. I am submitting my proposal for a Campus Community Partnership Grant to fund a summer internship project that will undoubtedly be beneficially for everyone involved. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Hall
Centre College

Campus Community Partnership Grant Proposal Associated Colleges of the South Environmental Initiative

Introduction

The ultimate goal of this project is to implement environmentally focused educational programs and plans for habitat restoration within the Danville community, ultimately strengthening relationships between Centre College and specific community organizations, in addition to forging new community partnerships. My role within this endeavor would be to serve as a liaison between all parties, working towards the realization of the goals and objectives of each group. As a representative of Centre College, I would work primarily with two local organizations in the Danville community: Clark's Run Environmental and Educational Corporation (CREEC) and Danville's local VERB committee.

CREEC is a nonprofit working towards the preservation and protection of Clark's Run, Danville's local watershed. The primary of CREEC are as follows: 1.) Protect and improve the water quality of Clark's Run; 2.) Continue the development of the recreational trail along Clark's Run; and 3.) Conduct watershed educational programs. Many faculty members of Centre College are already actively involved in CREEC, some even sit as members on the board. Some Centre students have also taken an interest in Clark's Run and the efforts of CREEC through regular participation in service workdays along the watershed. The current president of CREEC is Rose-Marie Roessler, also a faculty member of Centre College.

Following the national VERB campaign formed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the primary focus of Danville's VERB action team is to increase physical activity and improve overall health among local children ages nine through thirteen. Various groups within the community, most notably the Ephraim McDowell Medical Center and the Boyle County Health Department, maintain the local VERB program. Paul Muth, the director of community service at Ephraim McDowell, is currently heading up this project. Representatives of VERB, CREEC, and Centre College have collaborated in the past on various community activities.

For this summer, I propose an eight-week internship that will allow me to incorporate the principles of Centre College and the goals of both CREEC and VERB within my various projects. Overall, my work will focus on community outreach and habitat protection and restoration.

Project Description

Project Activities

In partnership with VERB, CREEC, and Centre College, I will organize and lead various environmental activities at and around Clark's Run. These events will be geared toward children within the Danville community. I will work closely with the VERB Summer Scorecard program, which provides incentives for children ages 9 to 13 to engage in physical activity. These activities may include an educational walk along the creek, water sampling, flowers and/or tree plantings, the building of birdhouses along the creek, and tree and/or insect identification. I will also be responsible for promoting local participation by publicizing for these events throughout Danville.

This overall project will combine the primary objectives of VERB and CREEC by educating the Danville community on their local watershed, while also promoting physical activity among children.

I will also work to preserve and protect the Clark's Run watershed throughout Danville. In 1992, the Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet identified Clark's Run as problematic water source unable to support aquatic life. Ongoing studies by CREEC and other various groups have confirmed these findings. With this startling assessment in mind, I will build on previous efforts of creek restoration. One such task will be the eradication of invasive species along the creek, specifically honey suckle. The elimination of honey suckle along Clark's Run will allow for the reestablishment of native vegetation to create a stronger riparian buffer zone. To aid in this process, I will also plant specific tree species throughout the watershed. While some of this work will be independent physical labor on my part, I also plan to establish Clark's Run community workdays, inviting locals to assist me in the efforts towards overall beautification and restoration of the creek and their community. These workdays will also build local support and increasing public awareness of the problems that exist at Clark's Run.

One ongoing project within the Danville community has been the development and maintenance of trail systems along the creek. Groups such as CREEC, BIKE, Ephraim McDowell Medical Center, and representatives of the local government have already begun plans for future trail development. When this work is completed, the trails will serve to unite the Danville community, in addition to creating a clear connection between Centre College and Clark's Run. This will provide a venue for leisure activities along the creek, increasing local interest and awareness of Clark's Run for community members and Centre students alike. My role in this endeavor will be to maintain the already existent trails and work with various community partners to further trail development.

Furthermore, I will assist in progressing CREEC's efforts internally. Continuing with my previous work throughout the school year, I will maintain the membership database of CREEC. An up-to-date membership log is vital to the success of CREEC as this organization relies heavily on local participation and support. I will also provide all members and contacts with regular CREEC updates in the form of a monthly newsletter distributed electronically. Additionally, I will manage the CREEC website at <http://www.clarksrn.org>.

Timetable

The completion of these tasks and the internship as a whole will last eight weeks, from the May 26th through August 15th. Six of these eight weeks will coincide the VERB Summer Scorecard program. During this period, my primary focus will be the planning, coordination, and implementation of weekly youth activities, yet I will also work intermittently on the various other proposed tasks. The remaining two weeks of my internship will be devoted to CREEC related-projects.

Budget

I have requested a student stipend of \$250 per week for each of the eight weeks, totaling to \$2,000. Such funding will to be used to defray basic living expenses. Support for materials for educational and habitat restoration projects will be contributed by Ephraim McDowell Regional Medical Center and Clark's Run Environmental Education Corporation.

Evaluation and Dissemination

Dr. Preston Miles, professor at Centre College, and Rose-Marie Roessler, the president of CREEC, will supervise my progress throughout the summer. Additionally, I will make a final presentation at

the end of the summer to representatives of VERB, CREEC board members, and Centre College faculty.