



Mini-Grant Application

“YOUth Can!”

Due March 15, 2010

Presented by



Coordinated by the Nebraska InterCorps Council
a collaboration of AmeriCorps members in service in Nebraska





YOUth Can!
Global Youth Service Day Mini-Grant Application:

Thank you for your interest

What: ServeNebraska, the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission, is making funding available to organizations, schools, programs and institutions to develop, coordinate and implement small projects that will engage Nebraska youths in service to their local communities in conjunction with Global Youth Service Day, April 23-25, 2010. Applications should address this year's theme: "YOUth Can!" Our goal is to include as many youth as possible and help them build a strong service and service-learning foundation. Details on Global Youth Service Day can be found here: <http://gysd.org/>

Your application should support Nebraska youth in local one-day or continuous service projects with a service-learning component. Please submit a full application (attached), including a detailed proposed budget and project description. The complete application should not be longer than five (5) pages.

There are two pools of funding available – one for efforts benefiting any Nebraska youth and the other specifically focused on engaging youth with disabilities. Please state which pool of funds you are applying for within your application. ***The mini-grant awards for both pools will be capped at \$500.00.***

Deadline: To apply for a ServeNebraska Global Youth Service Day mini-grant, please complete and return the attached application form no later than **Monday, March 15, 2010 at 5:00 pm CST** to Greg Donovan at greg.donovan@nebraska.gov . If email submission is not an option, hard copies by fax [402-471-6249] or delivery/mail to:

Greg Donovan
ServeNebraska
6th Floor/State Capitol Building
PO Box 98927
Lincoln, NE 68509-8927

Selection Criteria: Projects may be chosen based on the following criteria: number of engaged youth volunteers; cost-effectiveness; location; and proposed impact. Preference will be given to projects with multiple funding sources; projects that engage and/or serve individuals with disabilities, particularly children; projects that occur in central - and/or western - Nebraska; and projects that have a cost-per-youth ratio of \$1.00 per 1 youth or better. Applicants are encouraged to provide matching funds (cash and/or In-kind). Please provide information in the budget portion of the application about intended match resources. ServeNebraska reserves the right to award partial funding based on the applicants proposed budget and project description.

Allowable use of funds: Funds are limited and meant to be used for direct programming needs. Allowable uses of funds are project materials, transportation for participants, food, beverages and other necessary refreshments, venue or material rentals. Funds may not be used to cover personnel costs.

Reporting: If you are chosen for a mini-grant award you will be required to provide service data, including the number of youth engaged, number of service beneficiaries, and items created as applicable. Additionally, you will be required to submit a one-page project summary narrative at the conclusion of the Global Youth Service Day activity.



2010 Global Youth Service Day Mini Grant Application

1. Contact Information

Contact Name: Jolene Skalsky

Email: jolene@spearjdesign.com Phone: 308-942-3496

Organization (legal applicant name): West Ridge Wrangler 4-H Club

Address: 82775 446th Ave – Almeria, NE 68879

Youth Contact Person: Weston Reineke, President

Age: 6 Email: N/A

2. Project Details

Organization Type: (Select all that apply)

Faith-based Non-profit Government Education

Club Business Other: _____

Which pool of funding are you applying for:

Disability Inclusion Youth Service

Youth Service

Community Served: Almeria, Western Loup County

Description of Youth Population (ages, demographics): Children ages 5 thru 17, mostly white, average family income \$25,000-35,000, it is a rural area supported largely by agriculture.

Expected Number of Volunteers: 13

Number of Youth (age 5-25) anticipated out of expected volunteers: 6

3. Please describe your Youth Service Day Project plan and how it is applicable to the “*YOUth Can!*” theme:

The Abbott Community Park Restoration

In previous years the Abbott Park play equipment has fallen into disrepair and the grounds have become overgrown with weeds. Its neglect can be attributed to a decrease in area population and increase in the age of the remaining residents. Yet recently there has been a sudden spike of families with young children moving into Western Loup County, bringing a renewed need for an area recreational site. For the most of the West Ridge Wrangler (WRW) families, simply taking the children to play in a park is a twenty-five mile trip...one way.



The children have decided that this need can be met through the restoration of the local Abbott Community Park. All it needs is some WRW T.L.C.! To raise the funds we need to clean up in 2010, we have organized a fundraiser at the Easter Egg Hunt in Almeria on April 2nd. The children made a wood Easter Bunny with a circle cut out so the children can look through. Parents will be encouraged to take pictures of their children with the bunny for a good-will donation to West Ridge Wrangler's Abbott Park Fund.

In 2011, after we have had a summer to clean up, we wish to have a Father's Day Barbecue to build up our bank account so we may reach our long-term goals. If this event attracts enough local support, it may become our annual fundraiser to pay for expenses incurred by the upkeep of the park.

4. Project Location (Complete Address): Abbott Community Park is located on the West End Road in Loup County on the bank of the North Loup River. (No address assigned or available for this rural park.)

5. Does your project include a Service-Learning approach:

Yes No

If yes, please describe: The WRW kids will be acquiring a respect of property by learning how to be caretakers of the park. By volunteering labor, they will feel a sense of pride when utilizing it and experience joy from working to benefit the community they live in.

6. If your project includes youth with disabilities or focuses on serving those with disabilities, describe how:

Although our project does not directly focus on serving those with disabilities, there are several children and young adults with disabilities in the community that will find joy in the park. One of those children would be Sydney, a WWR member. She may have epilepsy but that doesn't stop her from her favorite activities, playing and swimming!

7. Does your project plan to engage youth not normally asked to serve:

Yes No

If yes, please explain: Our focus is to provide a place for all the children in the community to enjoy. We hope that through the restoration of the park, all families and children that utilize it will be proud of the facilities and be inspired to volunteer to be caretakers.

8. How will your project meet the needs of your community:

The children in the community, their families and generations to come will benefit greatly from this restoration project. Not only does Abbott Park mark a halfway point for area groups to meet, it fills a need for a family friendly gathering place.

9. Day(s) completing service: April 23 April 24 April 25 Other: _____

10. How will you recruit volunteers for this project:

The members of West Ridge Wrangler's have made Abbott Community Park their annual Service Project. We will be informing area residents of our plans and inviting them to volunteer via our fundraiser at the 125th Anniversary of Almeria Easter Egg Hunt on April 2nd, 2010.

11. How will you involve youth in leadership roles:



The Keep Loup Basin Beautiful program has donated enough garbage bags and water for each child at the event. The children that bring a friend or gather the most trash will receive a prize. In the future, we are instilling a sense of pride in the children that help restore the park and they will lead others by example in an effort to keep the facility clean and in good order.

12. How many youth are involved in the planning of this service project: 6

13. Is this project a collaboration with another service day:

Yes No

If yes, which one(s) and with whom:

Keep Loup Basin Beautiful, financed by the Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant Program.

14. What supplies or resources will be necessary to complete this project:

Presently, we are relying on WRW families to donate the use of their private lawn equipment. Our short-term goal is to raise enough funds this year to rebuild the safety fence next to the riverbank and purchase fuel for the lawn equipment. Long-term goals are to: build or purchase a new play-set with swings, paint and repair the outhouse, and buy at least two picnic tables made from recycled tires.

15. What is the plan for participant and volunteer transportation to the project location?

WRW parents have volunteered to transport children and stay to help as well. If any area residents are interested in volunteering, we will gladly pick them up if needed.

16. How will you track numbers of volunteers and volunteer service hours:

Mattie Ryker, the WRW Secretary, will take names of all volunteers present and record our work time.

17. What will the end result of your project be:

Upon completion of the Abbott Community Park Restoration Project, there will be a low maintenance community recreational park that all ages will be proud to take care of and enjoy for generations to come.

18. How will you know your project was a success:

The restoration of Abbott Community Park will be a success in the near future when the children are able to enjoy the fruits of their labor; and when it is still well maintained and enjoyed by Western Loup County residents in distant years to come.

Budget Summary (Be as detailed as possible)



1. Please present the full budget for the project, highlighting other sources of funds.

Materials/ Supplies:

ITEM	REQUEST	OTHER FUNDS	SOURCE(S) OF OTHER FUNDS	TOTAL COST
Fuel for Equipment		60.00	WRW Abbott Park Fund	60.00
Safety Fence		75.00	Donated by WRW Parents	75.00
Outhouse Repair: Paint and latches		25.00	WRW Abbott Park Fund	25.00
<i>Sub-Total</i>		160.00		160.00

Travel (mileage, food costs):

ITEM	REQUEST	OTHER FUNDS	SOURCE(S) OF OTHER FUNDS	TOTAL COST
Lunch & Supper		40.00	WRW Abbott Park Fund	40.00
Mileage/Fuel: \$1.19/mile, 24 miles round-trip for 3 vehicles		85.00	Donated by WRW Parents	85.00
<i>Sub-Total</i>		125.00		125.00

Other: Stationary Park Equipment

ITEM	REQUEST	OTHER FUNDS	SOURCE(S) OF OTHER FUNDS	TOTAL COST
2 Recycled Tire Picnic Tables	350.00	275.00	WRW Abbott Park Fund	625.00
Children's Play Set	150.00			150.00
<i>Sub-Total</i>	500.00	275.00		775.00

Total:	500.00	560.00		1060.00
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2. Budget Narrative: Please describe why the requested funds are necessary for the success of this project. The Restoration of Abbott Community Park is a long-term goal for the West Ridge Wrangler's. Yet it may be difficult for the children to raise enough money in order to complete their goal before they are too old to play on a swing set. The WRW parent's feel that in order for the children involved at present to fully utilize the results of the time they volunteered, an outside financial influence is considered necessary. The outcome of this application holds no relevance; this group is very dedicated to completing the project. Although being a grant recipient would help the children realize success within a timeframe suited to their age group...and attention span! Thank you for your time and consideration!