Three Lakes Association
Environmental Science Education Outreach Program
Year Seven
2014-2015 Academic School Year

Packet Materials:

1. **Packet Materials List** **1 page**

2. **TLA Science Education Outreach Program Letter to Teachers Of Science and Administrators in Bellaire, Central Lake, Kalkaska, and Mancelona Schools** **3 pages**

3. **SEOP Grant Application Timeline** **1 pages**

The SEOP Grant Application may be downloaded separately.

THREE LAKES
ASSOCIATION

January 15, 2014

To: Science Teachers in Bellaire, Central Lake, Kalkaska and Mancelona Schools

From: Patricia Roush, Chairman
TLA Education Committee
Three Lakes Association

Subject: TLA Science Education Outreach Program

At our site,3lakes.com, you will find a packet of information about Three Lakes Association's (TLA) 2014-2015 Science Education Outreach Program, which includes the steps for preparing a grant application and an anticipated timeline for the process.

In 2008, Three Lakes Association (TLA) came to your district with an offer of assistance to teachers of science, K-12, to enhance your science curriculum. This education initiative is called the **TLA Science Education Outreach Program (SEOP)**. TLA is pleased to continue our initiative. We offer you an opportunity to submit a request for equipment, conferences, periodicals, association memberships, field trip expenses, etc.; those things that would enhance your science curriculum but are not within your district's budget. We will grant as many requests as we can.

Because TLA's Mission involves the protection of water quality within this watershed and environmental education, our organization is especially interested in funding projects, research, etc. that mirror our interests, including activities that address invasive water species, natural flora, lakes and land ecology. However, grant items need not be limited to water quality activities. We want to do what we can to complement your science curriculum within the Michigan Curriculum Framework Science Benchmarks, and we invite you to **tell us what you need**.

In the five years of the Science Education Outreach Program TLA has awarded over $44,000 in wishes. Science teachers have asked for and received grants for science-related items, including the following:

- ✓ 12 memberships in professional science educator organizations
- ✓ 287 pieces of science equipment
- ✓ 22 teachers attended science education conferences
- ✓ 390 students benefited from subscriptions to science magazines
- ✓ Resource science books for the classroom
- ✓ A Netbook for the classroom
- ✓ 23 various field trips (primarily to the Grass River Natural Area)
- ✓ 16 Inland Seas Schoolship excursions
- ✓ A projector
- ✓ A weather station
- ✓ A school-wide assembly
- ✓ An electronic usage monitor
- ✓ A smart board which enhances learning across the curriculum

We are proud to be a partner in educating our area's children.

Since we are a volunteer and nonprofit organization, our funds for this and other projects come from dues and donations, and vary from year to year. We will do our best to grant all we can. TLA will announce its awards in mid April.

SEOP Grant Recipients

The membership of TLA looks forward to hearing from **students, teachers** and **administrators** regarding examples of how the Environmental Science Education Outreach Program and the Inland Seas Schoolship excursion, if yours is the designated class, enhances the science education in your classroom.

We request that you provide some form of feedback before or just after the end of the 2014-2015 school year. June 22, 2015 is TLA's June board meeting. **I need to receive your response by June 21st at the latest**. A list of possible ways you might choose to show us how you and your students used TLA's gifts is included in this packet (the list is on the Feedback Agreement page). We require that you sign an agreement that TLA will hear from you. A teacher who applies for a grant and breaks the agreement will not be invited to apply the next year.

We hope you will knock our socks off with your response!

Inland Seas Schoolship Program and Elk Rapids Chain of Lakes Maps

In the first year of this program, TLA pledged to **annually** fund four Inland Seas Education Association's schoolship excursions; one for each of the four districts within the watersheds of Torch Lake, Lake Bellaire and Clam Lake, i.e. Bellaire, Central Lake, Kalkaska and Mancelona Schools.

This year and in future years, TLA and ISEA (Inland Seas Education Association) are partnering to provide the annual schoolship excursions. The total cost to send a science class to ISEA is $800. TLA will contribute $400 and ISEA will contribute $400. We will provide the ISEA Schoolship application in the superintendent's TLA packet. If you are the teacher who will be taking your class aboard the schoolship, please contact your superintendent or principal for a copy of the application and an explanation of how to proceed.

TLA also provided a framed map of the Elk River Chain of Lakes Watershed for each building library and some classrooms in the four districts. The Inland Seas schoolship excursions and the Chain of Lakes maps were born of conversations with science teachers. Several teachers expressed a need and we were able to act on it. These requests were granted in addition to the Wish Lists submitted that year.

Other Types of TLA Assistance
TLA Members and the Carol Gray Norris Education Fund

TLA's membership includes individuals with a wealth of science backgrounds and careers who might mentor individual students, groups or classrooms. We'd like to offer this kind of help where it will work for you. Contact me at the email address or phone number below.

TLA will continue to offer the **Carol Gray Norris Education Fund**. This Fund provides financial assistance to any student working on an individual, group or class science project. You will find a letter introducing

the Carol Gray Norris Education Fund and a student application in your packet. These materials may be copied.

I would be happy to have a conversation with you about our program. Please feel free to call or email me with any questions you have or to set up a meeting.

Patricia Roush, Chairperson
TLA Education Committee
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THREE LAKES
ASSOCIATION

TLA's Mission is to provide leadership to preserve, protect, and improve the environmental quality of the Elk River Chain of Lakes, especially Torch Lake, Clam Lake and Lake Bellaire

2014-2015 TLA SEOP Grant Application Timeline

1. **January 15, 2014**	TLA Science Education Outreach Program grant application packet available at TLA website, www.3lakes.com.
2. **March 30, 2014**	SEOP Grant Application Deadline
3. **By April 27, 2014**	Announcement of SEOP Grant Awards
4.**During the 2014-2015 School Year, no later than June 21, 2015**	Teacher, Administrator, Student response regarding the use of the SEOP Grant