



To: Elementary teachers of Bellaire, Central Lake, Kalkaska, Mancelona schools and, this year with help from Elk-Skegemog Lake Association we are including the Elk Rapids School District

From: Three Lakes Association
Steven Laurenz, Education Committee Chair

Re: Notification of the Science Education Outreach Program grant application for the 2026-2027 school year

Dear Elementary Teacher,

Three Lakes Association (TLA) and Elk-Skegemog Lake Association (ESLA) are excited to announce our Science Education Outreach Program (SEOP) grant opportunity once again. These grants will support science and nature experiences in the 2026-2027 school year to give students hands-on interactions with the natural world through field trips, outdoor activities, and visits with experts.

This grant can fund fees and equipment to support your activities and experiences. In the Grant Ideas link you will find a link to an organization that funds transportation.

The grant application will open March 18, 2026, with a submission deadline of April 30, 2026. The SEOP grant allows you to provide students with an enhanced environmental science experience. Previous grants have been approved for a wide variety of activities including field trips to the Grass River Natural Area, Sleeping Bear Dunes, fish hatcheries, the AuSable Institute and the Great Lakes Children's Museum. A "not all encompassing" list of ideas with access links is available on the website, SEOP Grant Ideas at <https://www.3lakes.com/seop-grantsoverview/>.

Get creative! We want to help spark enthusiasm in these future stewards of our lakes and waters.

Link to the Winter 2025 newsletter with articles on the SEOP program:

<https://www.3lakes.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/TLA-Newsletter-Winter-2025-FINAL.pdf>

We are proud to offer this opportunity to all elementary teachers in the districts bordering our three lakes. We do require participating teachers report to our organization once during the school year and again at the end of the school year to tell us about the student experience. Suggested ways of reporting are included on the website. A form is provided to aid in the reporting process: [feedback form](#). To increase the awareness of this program, in your communication with parents please note the sponsorship by TLA and ESLA. This could be via your standard permission slips, web acknowledgements, etc. Please share the method of communication with parents that you use. A section is available in the above linked feedback form to provide that information.

The grant application and instructions are posted on the Three Lakes Association (3lakes.com) website at: <https://www.3lakes.com/seop-grants-overview/> Please apply online at: <https://www.3lakes.com/seop-grantapplication/> or follow the links on the website under *Education* drop down menu.

If you are not familiar with this program, please feel free to contact me directly and/or check out the information on our website.

Please contact me with any questions.

Science Education Outreach Program

Steven Laurenz,

Education Committee Chair,

Three Lakes Association

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