

COLLABORATIVE NATURAL RESOURCES EDUCATION ON THE ROSEBUD RESERVATION

This office in collaboration with the NRE partners at Sinte Gleska University is seeking funds to support a new educational endeavor for the youth on the Rosebud Reservation. We would like to expand our current education and outreach programs to include promoting and encouraging Natural Resources education and studies among the youth by adding some valuable tools to our existing limited resources.

OBJECTIVE

To purchase needed materials to develop several Educational Trunks that can be used in Natural Resources outreach instruction. We will be creating four such trunks: a Wildlife Trunk, a Range Sciences Trunk, a Science Lab Trunk, and a Portable Planetarium Trunk. These Trunks will be valuable tools in creating hands-on experiential learning for youth on The Reservation. Each Trunk can be used for multiple lessons, and will encourage youth to learn about and become involved in areas of Natural Resource conservation and education.

Success of this project is dependent not only on the funding sources, but also on each partner's support, effort, and willingness to work as a team.

PROCEDURES

- a. Purchase materials and develop Educational Trunks with associated activities and curriculums.
- b. Establish a method to record and report the usage and impacts of the Educational Trunks.
- c. Promote and implement programming to the 20 communities, 18 schools, 16 Headstart programs, 1 University, and various tribal youth organizations on the Rosebud Reservation.
- d. Participate with partner tribal colleges to take the Educational Trunks to other locations within the region for programming and promotion.
- e. Report impacts back to the NRE grant committee.

JUSTIFICATION

The Rosebud Reservation Extension Office functions solely on a grant budget which limits funds and hinders the availability and effectiveness of education projects that promote Natural Resources. Through already established strong partnerships that exist among the NRE personnel at Sinte Gleska and this office, we have identified a need for enhanced educational programs for the Reservation youth.

Youth on The Rosebud Reservation and in its communities are faced with a variety of challenges; the 2000 census reported that there are 10,469 people on The Reservation, with 47.9% of the population being under age 19, and only 32% of those graduate high-school. Youth on The Rosebud have to deal with several detrimental issues such as: drug and alcohol use, domestic violence, loss of culture, school dropouts, teen pregnancy, diabetes, and gangs. Educators on The Reservation often have a hard time relating to the youth and getting students to make a connection between their culture and their education. These Natural Resource Education Trunks will provide students with exceptional learning experiences that will help students see the connection, build life skills, and learn about the world around them. Only through positive learning experiences can the students begin to understand the importance of education and their role in their own communities.

Each Trunk will include supplemental activities, information, and resources for students to learn about their culture and the connection that Indian people have to their Natural Resources. Each Education Trunk will contain the materials needed for multiple lessons on specific Natural Resource and cultural topics.

When the project is complete, we will have successfully obtained materials to provide on-going education and life skills instruction to participants in our various programs.

EDUCATIONAL TRUNKS

Portable Planetarium Trunk: \$12,525

- Includes a full-scale blow-up dome that audiences can enter and be submerged in a complete surround sensation planetarium.
- Lessons will include astronomy, astrology, weather, and other earth sciences.
- Supplemental Lessons will incorporate the Lakota Oral Tradition teaching students about Lakota Star Knowledge, Stories, and History.

Range Sciences Trunk: \$620

- Includes materials to teach students about the Prairie ecosystem.
- Materials will include plant/grass ID lessons, soil ID and testing, and range conservation.
- Lessons will include hands-on field experiments and in-class instruction
- Supplemental Lessons will incorporate the Traditional Lakota uses of the Land including herbal/medicinal plant ID and range management.

Wildlife Trunk: \$1145

- Includes materials to teach students about Wildlife Ecology.
- Materials will include hands-on field lessons and in-class instruction.
- Lessons will include animal ID, endangered species, habitat ID, population dynamics, and conservation/management methods.
- A supplemental Bison Trunk has already been developed and will be used in conjunction with this Wildlife Trunk.
- Supplemental Lessons will incorporate the importance of wildlife to the Lakota culture and the Lakota Oral Traditions of telling stories about the earth and its flora and fauna.

Aquatics Trunk: \$1710

- Includes materials to teach students about water quality and Aquatic ecosystems.
- Materials will include hands-on field lessons and in-class instruction.
- Lessons will include animal ID, endangered species, aquatic habitats, watersheds, water testing, and conservation/management methods.