



COCEEC Mini Grant Request:

Amount Requested (cannot exceed \$750):
\$750.00

Would you be able to accept partial funding?
Yes.

Please answer the following questions briefly and clearly.

1. Describe the program or project for which this funding would be used and how it promotes understanding and/or conservation within the Crown of the Continent ecosystem:



The Glacier Institute mission states, "The Glacier Institute emphasizes field based learning experiences, the Institute provides an objective and science-based understanding of the area's ecology and it's interaction with people. Through this non-advocacy approach to outdoor education, participants can be better prepared to make informed and constructive decisions, which impact this and other ecosystems."

Concise Description of Request:

The Glacier Institute intends to enhance current programming with several new courses for the 2007 summer season. The Glacier Institute requests that COCEEC supports the initiation of the following three multi-day courses:

Connections beyond Borders: Celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park

Students will gain a first-hand understanding of the international, cross-border dimensions of park management. They will learn how park managers cooperate across the border on resource protection, scientific research, search and rescue, visitor services and interpretation. They will learn about the Peace Park as the ecological core of the larger Crown of the Continent ecosystem. The course will also examine the growing International Peace Park movement around the globe, a movement spawned and inspired by the designation of the world's first peace park here 75 years ago.



Climate Change and Glacial Recession in Glacier National Park

A great deal of scientific research is currently focused on documenting and understanding the causes and effects of global climate change. The most obvious and easily observed of these effects is the radical recession of glaciers on a worldwide scale. Mid-latitude glaciers, such as those in Glacier National Park, are some of the best and most easily observed indicators of climate change. Experts predict that the Park's remaining 37 named glaciers will disappear completely by 2030.

This course will explore the impact of climate change in Glacier National Park as evidenced by the Park's glaciers. Day hikes will be made to Grinnell Glacier in the Swiftcurrent Valley and Sperry Glacier (or an alternate glacier) in the McDonald Valley. Classroom discussion will include natural cycles in the sun's radiant energy, the greenhouse effect, anthropogenic factors causing global warming, and flora and fauna shifts being observed at higher latitudes in North America. Glacial geology and geomorphology are integral parts of this course, so students will become proficient in glacial terminology.

Native American Inhabitants and Visitors to the Crown Ecosystem

The course would examine ancient visitation and inhabitation of the Crown of the Continent ecosystem by ancient visitors through archaeological information, tribal history, and stories. The course will continue the examination with known uses of the ecosystem (and neighboring ecosystems to include sacred areas and hunting areas) that are relevant to the cultures of the Salish, Kootenai, Blackfeet, Shoshone, Crow, Assiniboine, and other Northwestern plains tribes that were in the area.

2. What is the timeline for this project?

Timeline of this project is the summer season of 2007.

3. Describe how other COCEEC participant groups and individuals would benefit from helping to fund this request:

All COCEEC participants share the common goal of education and conservation of the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem, hoping to enhance visitor understanding and conservation for generations to come. Glacier Institute courses are available to all individuals and visitors to the Flathead Valley.



4. To the degree applicable, describe how this project involves or encourages collaboration between different groups and/or individuals (agencies, schools, teachers, scientists?):

Visitors, staff and local population will gain an enhanced understanding of Glacier/Waterton International Peace Park, its history, early residents and the future of Glacier National Park. The Glacier Institute will continue to enhance visitor understanding and education. This will benefit our beautiful Park for future generations. Please note that the National Park does not offer two and three-day educational experiences.

5. If applicable, please describe any other sources and amounts of funding for this project:

In past years, the Glacier Institute has received a small amount of funding from the Glacier Natural History Association. In 2005, the Board of Directors of the Natural History Association voted to discontinue this aid request of assisting with educational program funding. The Glacier Institute now applies directly to the National Park Service for funding. As Federal Budgets continue to experience cuts, we unfortunately learn that education typically is not funded. The Glacier Institute hopes to continue offering these two and three day educational experiences at affordable prices for decades to come. The Aid request for 2007 requesting funding for programs has been denied by the National Park Service. The Glacier Institute does not currently have any sources of funding for this project at this time.

The request is for \$250.00 donation for each program to assist in the launching of these three in-depth multi-day programs, which directly tie to the themes of Waterton/Glacier International Peace Park. (Total of \$750.00)

Submit by: November 15, 2006 by mail to: COCEEC, P.O. Box 902, Kalispell, MT 59903 or email to

ctn80173@centurytel.net