

Name of Group: Swan Ecosystem Center (SEC)

Contact information: Anne Dahl, executive director/president  
Diann Ericson, education coordinator  
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Amount Requested: \$750.00 Partial funding: Yes

The funding requested would partially finance SEC's After School Club (ASC). ASC's motto is Education, Service, Recreation. The program promotes stewardship of ecosystems, especially the Swan Valley ecosystem of the Crown of the Continent, which is accomplished by getting youth outdoors, in nonmotorized activities, learning and recreating, on a weekly basis.

The funding requested would be used to:

- finance school bus transportation to Lone Pine State Park as an end of the year trip for After School Club. \$200
- purchase four additional sets of Nikon binoculars \$280
- purchase art supplies to produce projects in the exhibit room \$100
- provide partial funding of coordinator's time to prepare for and conduct ASC \$170

Programs of ASC include: Leave No Trace, a pollinator garden, compass use, bird identification, tracking skills, volunteer assistance in the exhibit room and on SEC's interpretive trails.

The timeline is the 2008-2009 school year. Tuesdays from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

Benefits for COCEEC resulting from funding this project: We would be happy to present an overview of the weekly program's format—a key factor in ASC's success. Also, we could assist COCEEC participants in developing their own ASC program. But the benefit theoretically, hopefully is of a universal nature—the creation of stewardship attitudes among rural youth in Montana who have often been raised to view nature as an adversary.

Group collaboration includes a wonderful mix of home-schooled, public school students many from a variety of cultures, who are sharing the outdoors together, by choice.

University natural resource majors and natural resource specialists often work with the ASC kids on various projects. Community retirees volunteer weekly to assist or accompany the ASC kids with their projects.

Swan Ecosystem Center is currently financing the entire ASC program including over 100 hours of coordinator's time and mileage.

Parents furnish refreshments.

Two or three community members assist students every Tuesday.

Thank you, for considering this request. Diann Ericson, education coordinator