



Dear School Administrator:

A team of 2-4 teachers from your school is applying to participate in the Earth Partnership for Schools Summer Institute for Teachers. The institute shows teachers how to teach a broad range of subject matter while restoring native habitats on school grounds.

The EPS teacher professional development model has been proven effective in increasing teacher collaboration and improving student learning. While focusing on ecology, native habitat plantings also incorporate subjects such as mathematics, history, science, social studies, language arts, art, and music. Since 1991, EPS has worked with over 180 schools restoring schoolyard habitats and improving K-12 education by engaging students in hands-on/minds-on learning. Selected teams comprised of teachers will receive a fully paid training, lodging, curriculum, and CEU's worth approximately \$2,000. EPS offers teachers substantial support, training, and expertise as they create a native habitat planting and develop a curriculum to make the native planting project a broad educational resource that meets state standards.

The teacher team that is currently applying will attend a one-week institute at Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center in Lanesboro, MN We will work with teachers to envision, design, and undertake a cooperative ecological native planting at their school. We provide guidance for curricular material development related to the site project.

We ask that the following requirements be met to satisfy guidelines from our funders and our desire to maintain a high-quality program:

1. Each participating school will provide space (1,000 ft² minimum) that is suitable for a long-term native planting.
2. The school commits to the development of a native planting at the school or in the community and its subsequent use as a teaching tool in keeping with the school's long-range plan, professional development plan, and mission.
3. Schools will form an ongoing curriculum planning team to infuse and integrate the native planting project into the school's curriculum.
4. The school will participate in a research project carried out by students that relates to their native planting. Schools will be provided with necessary materials, training, and staff support.
5. Our funders request evaluation of Earth Partnership for Schools Program activities. At times your school will be asked to participate in program evaluations and/or to provide classroom and student assessments. Student names are not required.
6. At times, we may take photographs of students participating in the native planting process. Teachers will attempt to obtain parental consent for EPS.

We are very excited about this opportunity and look forward to working with your teachers and school. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at 507.467.2437 or e-mail: education@eagle-bluff.org.

Sincerely,

Sara Sturgis
Education Director
Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center
Earth Partnership for Schools Program

I have read the above and agree to the requirements of EPS:

_____ (signature)

_____ (title)