

2018-19 Promise Grant Sample Application

This application was submitted by Hot Springs, Ark., Lodge No. 380 and approved by the ENF.

1. CONTACT INFORMATION

2. GRANT DESCRIPTION

Category: Youth education program, Drug Awareness Program, Supplies/Equipment

Audience: Other Community Issues, Poor, Youth

Describe your Lodge's charitable activity and how it will serve local youth.

The Lodge will work in partnership with Mid-America Science Museum staff to plan, supply and execute a youth/family event on June 16, 2018. The event, Tinkerfest, will bring families together with area businesses, leaders and hobbyists with the goal of entrenching event goers in hands-on, minds-on educational activities that not only bring youth/families together but excite young minds about science. During the summer season when young people, especially teens, too often make poor choices by using their free time to experiment with alcohol, drugs, etc., the Elks of Hot Springs seek to turn this time into one of positive choices, educational activities and fun for all ages. Tinkerfest will take place from 10:00 am until 4:00pm on June 16, 2018. The Elks will work with Mid-America Science Museum staff to plan, supply and facilitate science related demonstrations and activities during the event.

Science is undoubtedly fun and gaining popularity, however, science education has never been more important to our community than it is now. Our rural community in Southwest Arkansas is plagued with high rates of poverty, low rates of college graduation and few resources to bridge the gaps that relate the two issues. Science education and a life-long love of the sciences must be a high priority if we are to compete with the rest of our country and globally in today's modern world. Sparking an interest in the sciences at a young age is vital to ensuring that the next generation will have interest in and ability to pursue careers that support building and maintaining technology, engineering, mathematics and science. In addition to supporting modern science education, while manning the activity stations at Tinkerfest, members will have the opportunity to discuss positive choices and healthy lifestyles and keeping these things a priority. Funds from the Promise Grant will be used to supply materials for the activity booths and promote the event.

Why is this project a need in your community? How will the Lodge identify youth in need to participate?

Our community of Hot Springs is situated in rural Southwest Arkansas. With a population that is economically disadvantaged and often underserved, science education outside the public-school classroom is a luxury that few can afford. Moreover, summer is a time of the year when children can find themselves with more free time and often less supervision, a combination that can lead to making poor choices. Thus, the Elks have selected it as the ideal time to support a family friendly event that creates a safe and educational atmosphere that fosters positive living and a bright future. To publicize the event and encourage attendance, the Elks will work closely with Museum staff to promote the event within the community. Tinkerfest will be heavily promoted using social media, printed posters, newspaper articles and presentations. Lodge members who use Facebook will 'like' and 'share' all information posted by Mid-America Science Museum about the event and will also provide the legs to carry printed information throughout the community. The Lodge will specifically work to publicize the event with the YMCA, Boys and Girls Club and other local non-profits who serve and work with the neediest and most underserved area youth.

Elks participation is required. Tell us how Lodge members are actively involved in this activity, and how many will be involved.

We expect up to 50 Lodge members to participate in the planning and promoting of Tinkerfest at Mid-America Science Museum. Planning of the event will begin in January 2018 which will allow for time to gather and order needed supplies as well as to successfully promote the event. Elks are particularly enthused about the opportunities associated with working at activity tables and tinkering stations during the event. We plan to use the funds to supply the following activity tables and tinkering stations with a wide variety of materials: tiny art tinker stations using microscopes,

plastic sheets, colored pencils, markers and heat guns; simple circuit creations using copper wire, button batteries, cardstock paper, tape, markers; duct tape inventions made with a variety of tape sizes, widths and colors; techno take apart using hand tools to take apart old electronics and computers and use parts to construct something new; face painting and photo booth opportunity with Elroy the Elk. Our members plan to bring Elroy the Elk costume and have members dress up to further excite kids and engage them in conversation and thoughts of healthy lifestyles and choices.

What does the Lodge expect to accomplish with this activity? How will the Lodge measure its success?

The Lodge and Mid-America Science Museum staff are excited to plan a safe and educational event that promotes family inquiry based learning, healthy lifestyles and positive choices. We can do so much more than provide a fun event for families, we have the opportunity to inspire a life-long love of science that can be the foundation for future success in school and ultimately in a successful STEM-based career. Success will be measured by the number of attendees compared to the previous year. Surveys will be handed out to all volunteers, businesses and individuals who are part of the event. Staff will walk throughout the Museum during Tinkerfest with I-pads equipped with electronic surveys. The idea is to reach event goers in real time by engaging with families and encouraging them to answer survey questions. Data from these surveys will be compiled and analyzed to more accurately measure success and effectiveness of activities and event programs. Elks and museum staff will also utilize anecdotal evidence and observation techniques to ascertain guest involvement and event program effectiveness.

Anticipated date of project completion:
07/26/2018

3. BUDGET

Item	Estimated Cost
Tiny art tinkering station supplies: plastic sheet	\$1,050.00
Photo Booth Supplies: Party hats, boas	\$2,950.00
Simple circuit creations: button batteries, LED light	\$1000.00
Total Grant request	\$2500.00
Total Cost of Event	\$5,250.00

Budget Narrative

Items listed are necessary in order to maximize interest and learning by the youth attending Tinkerfest 2018. We are working with the Mid-America Science Museum as partners to determine specifics of available materials for each activity at Tinkerfest and details of the schedule of events for the day. However, please note that we have included a current list of supplies needed for the activities we know we plan to do, including circuit creations, tiny art tinkering, techno take apart, duct tape creations, photo op and face painting. Additional activities may be added but would be supplied by the Museum, area businesses, participating individuals or covered by the Museum's budget.