

CSC Project Synopsis — 2014

Project Title: Rhode Island Youth Conservation League (YCL): 2014 Youth Crews

Goals:

YCL Outcomes:

- provide summer employment for high school aged youth and job experience for those interested in careers in landscaping and environmental management.
- provide substantial labor and other inputs towards stewardship needs of cons. land holders
- draw public attention to stewardship needs of conservation land and portray those activities as personally, socially, and economically valuable and make stewardship activities attractive to a public seeking new forms of outdoor recreation and new ways to re-engage with Nature.
- broaden community support for land conservation generally.



Brief Description: The Rhode Island Youth Conservation League (YCL) is an innovative approach to meeting important needs of the local land conservation movement through: 1) greater capacity for stewarding conservation land, 2) sustained, broadened public support for land conservation generally, 3) renewed, strengthened connections between people and nature. YCL has been developed, beginning in 2010, by Rhode Island chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Audubon Society of Rhode Island (ASRI), and the Rhode Island Natural History Survey (RINHS) with the hope that it will be a permanent conservation stewardship program for the state.

RINHS applied for funds from the US Forest Service to meet most expenses for an expanded YCL season (2 8-person crews) in each of the next three years (2014-16). We expect to hear the proposal's rank by the end of December. An award of funds is contingent upon a match and while most of the match would be in-kind services of ASRI and TNC, the proposed budget also incorporates \$13,868 in non-federal funds for the 2014 season. RINHS requests a grant from the CSC for that amount in anticipation of an award from USFS. Should the USFS request not be funded, RINHS will conduct a reduced version of the YCL (similar to the 2013 season) and apply the CSC grant towards the estimated \$21,000 budget. RINHS, with ASRI and TNC, would seek other sources for the approximately \$7,200 difference.

While the U.S. conservation movement has seen great success in open space protection, resources for stewardship of this land (which includes estuarine and coastal areas) have not kept pace. New England states protected 1.11 million acres from 1998 to 2005, increasing total conservation land by 30% in just 7 years but funding for stewardship is tighter than ever. Even

the availability of volunteers with interests in or skills for outdoor tasks has been threatened as time spent by American children in unstructured outdoor play declined 50% from 1997 to 2003.

The YCL meets this challenge by making conservation land stewardship a community activity. The YCL model includes: 1) crews of high school-aged youth, with college-aged leaders/mentors, hired to tackle diverse stewardship tasks during one or more 5-week sessions, 2) more complicated projects that bring together youth crews, adult land trust volunteers, and professional stewardship staff, 3) a schedule with built-in educational components and opportunities for YCL members to communicate their learning and growth to the community. YCL consists of one or more crews of up to 8 high school aged employees, each crew with a college-age leader and assistant leader. The program focuses on diverse stewardship tasks from invasive plant removal and habitat restoration to signage, trail building, and facility maintenance, but additional regular activities include job training, leadership and teambuilding exercises, natural history lessons, and publicity/public outreach.

The stewardship tasks will take place on land conserved by ASRI and TNC and would include things such as invasives removal and general vegetation clearing, erosion control, trail work, or fencing. Precise details and a day-by-day schedule would be planned by staff of the partners and finalized by the crew leader and assistant before the crew starts.

Hiring for crew leader and crew assistant leader would be done jointly by RINHS with assistance of ASRI and TNC. Planning for projects would be done by RINHS, ASRI, and TNC, with the crew leader commencing 2 weeks, and the assistant leader 1 week in advance of the crew. Available student crew positions would be publicized in communities based on the partner organizations' needs and/or the priorities of funders, for instance in forested, rural areas or urban areas. Power tools, chemicals, construction materials, permits, and additional field labor for projects would be the responsibility of the land owner.

Deliverables:

1. Employment of 6-8 youth crew, one crew assistant leader, and one crew leader
2. Two days of crew training/team building
3. Eighteen days of crew work on partner lands (1,260 hours + partner time)
4. Public celebration with parents, org. partners, teachers, community leaders
5. Web journal such as on Facebook
6. Financial and written reports

Timeline and Benchmarks:

Feb 2014	Advertise crew leader and assistant positions Advertise crew positions
April	Hire leaders and crew
Mar-June	Planning by partners
June 9-16	Crew leader and crew assistant start
Crew 1 June 23 thru July 50	
Crew 2 July 21 thru Aug 22	
	(contingent schedule for a single crew: June 23 thru July 25 or June 30 thru August 1)
August	Public celebration
August 25-29	Crew leader and assistant finish

Budget:

The budget requested from RICSC covers primarily crew wages and miscellaneous out of pocket costs. Substantial input from partners is anticipated including: staff time for the hiring process and time to plan the stewardship projects, a van for most of 5 weeks, any other costs (materials, heavy equipment, specialized labor) for stewardship projects. RINHS would be the employer of the crew and leaders. RINHS would handle payroll and expenditure of other funds and collect 13.06% of the direct costs in compensation (13.06% is RINHS's federal indirect rate).

who/what	rationale	value	USFS-CARP	partner non-fed cash match	non-federal in-kind match
RINHS					
crew wages	8 x \$9 x 10 wks x 32 hrs	\$ 23,040.00	\$ 17,280.00	\$ 5,760.00	
crew leader wages	\$16.50/hr x 12 wks x 39 hrs	\$ 7,722.00	\$ 5,791.50	\$ 1,930.50	
crew assistant leader wages	\$13.00/hr x 12 wks x 39 hrs	\$ 5,850.00	\$ 4,387.50	\$ 1,462.50	
crew fringe	13.0%	\$ 4,759.56	\$ 3,569.67	\$ 1,189.89	
planner/leader	100 hrs @35	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,625.00	\$ 875.00	
planner/leader fringe	33%	\$ 1,155.00	\$ 866.25	\$ 288.75	
administrator	100 hrs @22	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 1,650.00	\$ 550.00	
administrator fringe	38%	\$ 836.00	\$ 627.00	\$ 209.00	
open house (venue + catering)	est	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00		
supplies (tools, gloves, repellent,etc)	est	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00		
team "uniforms" (t-shirts & pants)	36 shirts, 18 pants	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,800.00		
recognition items	shirts, hats, certificates 18@\$10ea	\$ 180.00	\$ 180.00		
gas for van	20 gal/wk x \$4 x 9 wks	\$ 720.00	\$ 720.00		
mileage for planning	16trips @40 avg miles x \$0.555	\$ 355.20	\$ 355.20		
food for BI	18 for 3 days @ \$5	\$ 270.00	\$ 270.00		
ferry tickets	28 rt @ 30	\$ 840.00	\$ 840.00		
van rental	100/day*18 days	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,800.00		
printing, postage for recruiting	150 flyers to schools	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00		
leader/asst leader 1st aid train	2@350	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00		
restoration plantings	500 units Rhody Native, estimate	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 3,200.00		
indirect	13.06%	\$ 7,872.28	\$ 6,270.38	\$ 1,601.89	
ASRI					
planner/leader	60 hrs @ \$40 (sal + fringe)	\$ 2,400.00			\$ 2,400.00
stewardship personnel	320 hrs @ \$30 (sal + fringe)	\$ 9,600.00			\$ 9,600.00
equipment use (tractors, chippers)	8 half days @\$175	\$ 1,400.00			\$ 1,400.00
van	27 @ \$100	\$ 2,700.00			\$ 2,700.00
supplies (herbicide)	4 days @\$500/day +materials	\$ 900.00			\$ 900.00
TNC-RI					
planner/leader	60 hrs @ \$40 (sal + fringe)	\$ 2,400.00			\$ 2,400.00
stewardship field personnel	320 hrs @ \$30 (sal + fringe)	\$ 9,600.00			\$ 9,600.00
heavy equipment (tractors, chippers)	8 half days @\$175	\$ 1,400.00			\$ 1,400.00
van Block Is.	4 days @\$150	\$ 600.00			\$ 600.00
cookout	est	\$ 300.00			\$ 300.00
accommodation Block Is.	18 peop x 3 nights x \$40	\$ 2,430.00			\$ 2,430.00
Community Partners					
volunteers	8*\$18.50/hr*6hrs*6 projects	\$ 5,328.00			\$ 5,328.00
supplies	3 proj at \$300 (lumber, cement)	\$ 900.00			\$ 900.00
other	tractors, ch. saws @ \$80/day avg*6	\$ 480.00			\$ 480.00
RIDEM-DFE					
geodata management		in-kind			
planning assistance		in-kind			
TOTAL		\$ 108,588.04	\$ 54,282.50	\$ 13,867.53	\$ 40,438.00
Match = \$54,283/\$54,306 (1:1)					

Total CSC Request: \$13,868

Payments will be made to RINHS

Project oversight will be by David Gregg, Executive Director, RINHS