

**August 31, 2009**

**The Canopy Fund - Guidelines for Funding**

Our purpose is to fund projects that provide hands-on outdoor learning opportunities in environmental education, life sciences, earth sciences, river/water studies, and conservation. Our goal is to assist in providing outdoor learning opportunities to increase knowledge, skills, and abilities resulting in informed decisions and responsible actions concerning our environment, our community, and our shared planet. The learning must be based on objective and scientifically sound information. We want to fund opportunities for any age that can create a love for the natural environment and the discipline and skills to enjoy and protect it.

**We will give priority to:**

Schools and other organizations which have a high proportion of underprivileged children or adults whose opportunities for outdoor education are reduced by lack of funding;

"Title I" schools;

Projects where there are additional funds available to partner on the project, and/or there is significant volunteer participation;

Projects involving nontraditional learners whose access to outdoor learning opportunities is limited by funding and/or physical and mental barriers;

Projects presenting match funding opportunities.

**We will not fund:**

Cultural or historical education unless the opportunity can demonstrate a clearly significant connection to the objectives of environmental education, life sciences, and/or earth sciences;

Any project or program sponsored, designed, or delivered by Cobb Landmarks and Historical Society;

Admission to museums, aquariums, and other interior learning spaces;

Religious education;

Creationism instruction;

Programs with a purely recreational goal;

Organized team sports.

**We will consider as eligible expenses:**

Transportation costs (at least 2 bids required)

Instructor, specialist, and guide fees

Lab and other supplies

Equipment rental, such as canoes

Other expenses as considered appropriate by the Fund from time to time

**We would like to know:**

Who the learners are (age/school/organization or learning level/exposure to outdoor learning)

What the objectives of the field studies are

How the requestors will measure the success of the program ("soft" measures are welcomed; we are not interested in short-term standardized test score elevation. We would be happy to hear that students wrote more complex sentences, had a higher motivation to continue their studies, voluntarily read more, spent more time outdoors, pursued follow-on projects, etc. Measurable soft results for adult learners could be more involvement in conservation activities, etc.)

We would like to see evidence, however anecdotal, of qualitative results after the field studies.

We would like to understand how the program we are funding fits in the larger learning context and how the learning will be sustained and reinforced over time.

We will request a brief 3-month follow-up on sustainability of results so that we can track whether our fund is achieving its objectives.

**To apply for funding or for more information:**

**By email:** [thecanopyfund@gmail.com](mailto:thecanopyfund@gmail.com)

**By US mail:** The Canopy Fund, P.O. Box 681596, Marietta, GA 30068

Or, c/o Cobb Community Foundation, 1985 North Park Place, Atlanta, GA 30339

CCF **Phone:** 770.953.6865 **Fax:** 770.951.7587