

The Chappaqua Library seeks a WLS Mini-Grant in the amount of \$630 for the Environmental Explorers Program Series.

- **Project Details:**

- Purpose:

The Environmental Explorers Program will be a series of four 1-hour programs held at the Chappaqua Library for children and adults to explore themes of community engagement, environmental responsibility, and sustainability. The purpose of these intergenerational programs is to increase community awareness of the Library as a leader in sustainability innovation, to encourage creative solutions to relevant, local environmental issues, and to bring together all demographics of the greater Chappaqua community for fun and inspired learning and exploration. These programs will allow us to expand and highlight the Library's existing sustainable features and collaborate with local professionals and organizations.

- Specific Activities

Program 1: What's In Your Backyard? (Smart Gardening in Small Spaces)

This program will start with an icebreaker game inspired by the WLS CELF workshops to facilitate a discussion about sustainability in our community. Participants will then explore the Children's Room garden, help set up a new compost bin, and explore ways to enact similar changes at home. Peggy Post will facilitate a discussion on native plants and an art project to foster scientific understanding of native flora and invasive species. Library staff will attend the Native Plant Sale at Westchester Community College on April 25 to purchase plants.

Program 2: Being Bright is Cool: Exploring Solar Energy

This program will explore how the existing solar energy panels on the Library roof work, how the Library tracks the energy produced, and why sustainable energy is important. The program is intended for families to encourage collaborative, science-based problem-solving. The Library

will purchase one “Solar Racer” kit for each family, which will demonstrate small-scale solar energy and will encourage constructive thinking to build a racer powered by sustainable energy.

Program 3: Local Wildlife, Wild and Wonderful!

This program will introduce patrons to local wildlife in Westchester County. The Library will collaborate with the Westmoreland Sanctuary (Mount Kisco, NY) to present a specially-tailored program about local wildlife and how residents can be mindful of their habitats and needs. Live animals will make an appearance to ensure a fun time for everyone.

- **Culminating activity planned:**

Program 4: Sustainability Series Display and Salad Party

The final part of the series will feature a public multimedia display detailing the summer’s events to share the Library’s commitment to sustainability with the community. Participating families will be encouraged to bring in photos of their own gardens and sustainable home features. In addition to learning more about the series and the Library’s ongoing sustainability efforts, visitors will also tour the garden, examine a solar racer, and enjoy a “Salad Party” with locally-sourced snacks and vegetables from the Library garden and the town Farmer’s Market.

- **Target Audience and Maximum Capacity**

Prog. 1: Grades 3-6, max. 20 children; *Prog. 2:* School-aged children (K+) and families, max. 20 families (~80 people); *Prog. 3:* All ages, max. 240 people; *Prog. 4:* all ages, max. 240 people.

- **Strategies for Engaging Participants**

The Library regularly fills children’s programs to near-capacity through fliers, the Library website, newsletter, and marquee, social media, and local media and television. Librarians will also announce the series during school visits and at the Chappaqua Farmer’s Market..

- **Project Dates:**

Program 1: July 6; Program 2: July 20; Program 3: August 6; Program 4: August 17

- **Project Goals:**

With this series, the Library aims not to simply talk about environmental responsibility, but to encourage residents to put sustainable practices into action every day. We will introduce some “big picture” ideas about sustainability while demonstrating how simple, personal changes can make a difference. The series will demonstrate to the Chappaqua community that the Library is committed to innovative thinking through inspired and fun programs.

- **Community Impact:**

This series includes partnerships with a number of local professionals and organizations, which will strengthen the Library’s community network. In exchange for publicity and donated food for the salad party, the Library will host storytimes at the town Farmer’s Market during the summer. It will help solidify the Library’s place as a leader in sustainable thinking and education in the area. Three of the programs target an intergenerational audience, which will bring together demographics that may not usually participate together at the Library.

- **Professionals involved and their qualifications:**

- Peggy Post - Artist; Chappaqua Garden Club member, formerly with Teatown Preserve

- **Community involvement; partners, if any, and their roles:**

- Westmoreland Sanctuary - Nature preserve/animal sanctuary; educational program
- Chappaqua Farmer’s Market - Advertising partners; food for final event
- Westchester Community College - Native Plant Center; access to plants for garden

- **Total Project Budget Amount:** \$840 (See attached page for details.)

- **Total Project Request Amount:** \$630

Budget Details

Program 1: *Smart Gardening*

Compost Bin for Library Garden: \$150

Professional Lecturer's Fee: \$150

Native Plants for Study and Planting: \$100

Program 2: *Solar Energy*

Solar Racer Kits: \$8/family x 20 families = \$160

Program 3: *Local Wildlife*

Westmoreland Sanctuary Visit: \$200

Program 4: *Display and Salad Party*

Display Materials: \$30

Beverages, Utensils, etc.: \$50

- **Total Project Budget Amount: \$840**
- **25% Cost Share from Chappaqua Library: \$210**
- **Total Project Request Amount: \$630**