



The Rotary Foundation – Rotary District 5610

☒ 5610/ ☐ CAP Grant Application *(check one)*

Maximum CAP Grant Amount: \$1000

1. Basic Information (Should match information in matchinggrants.org).

Grant # P-3073 *(Assigned by www.matchinggrants.org)*

Lead Rotary Club: Pierre Fort Pierre Rotary Club

Participating Rotary Clubs: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Project Title: Rotary Environmental Education Treehouse

Rotary Year
2019-20

Project Summary

The Pierre-Fort Pierre Rotary Club plans to design and build a treehouse exhibit to feature environmental exhibits for children and families that visit the SD Discovery Center, a hands-on science education center in Pierre, SD.

Amount Requested: \$ 15,000

Minimum Acceptable†: \$ 7000

† Please enter the smallest award that you could accept while keeping the project viable. Entering a smaller number here does not necessarily mean that you will not receive your full request, but it will be helpful in determining how to allocate funds should the total requests in a given year exceed the amount available.

What Area(s) of Focus Will This Project fulfill? (Optional for CAP Grant.) *Check all that apply.*

This should match the information entered into matchinggrants.org.

- ☐ **Peace & Conflict Resolution/Prevention**
- ☐ **Disease Prevention & Treatment**
- ☐ **Water & Sanitation**

- ☒ **Basic Education & Literacy**
- ☐ **Economic & Community Development**
- ☐ **Maternal & Child Health**

2. Project Description

Describe the project, its location, and its objectives. Describe how the project will benefit the community and/or improve the lives of the less fortunate. Also include sustainability elements.

This may be the same as in matchinggrants.org but in many cases may have additional information. Information may be included in this request that is not appropriate to publicly display as when this report is uploaded to the website, access can be restricted to only those people associated with this project.

America and South Dakota are in the midst of one of the most profound and rapid societal changes in history. Today's generation of children is the first to grow up indoors. Their plugged in lives are largely devoid of exploring the natural world. This movement is not benign; there are costs to the health and mental well-being of our children. Additionally, if children are detaching from nature, how will they come to understand and value nature? How will the next generation become good stewards of Earth's resources? (Why Teach Environmental Education?, American Forest Foundation, www.americanforestfoundation.com)

Rotary International has concern for both the world's children and our environment. Pierre-Fort Pierre Rotary are concerned as well. We live on the Missouri River yet many of our kids aren't inspired to explore it. Families leave litter and all out garbage along the river's banks. Our economy depends on our ability to

grow plants but our kids see us covering the soil with buildings and chemicals. With a two story environmental education treehouse we can attract kids attention to the hands-on exhibits inside that will involve the kids and their families in memorable lessons about aspects of our environment. The exhibits, particularly the SD Soil Health exhibit that will be first featured, will provide activities that show families why natural resources are important to them, get them interacting with parts of the resource and introduce them to action they can take to enjoy and protect the resource.

The Rotary Environmental Education Treehouse will span two-stories inside the 40ft SD tall SD Discovery Center exhibit hall. Two sides of treehouse, located on the SDDC balcony, will overlook the city's Mayors' Arboretum to the Missouri River, through 10ft windows. Permanent binoculars, tree keys, bird and cloud identification activities can draw families attention to the nature around them and help them learn to use scientific tools to observe their world. The additional south side of the treehouse will over look the SDDC exhibit hall and the east side will be open space for housing hands-on activities based upon environmental topics. A couple of these rotating options include Native Waters - an exhibit that teaches water conservation through a native American cultural perspective and Animals as Architects which amazes kids with the engineering prowess of bugs, birds and other animals. Our communities, Pierre and Fort Pierre, are home to bald eagle nesting sites, so we plan to add a life-sized eagle nest for kids to role-play nesting activity and view live feed from nests in the wild. From the top of the treehouse the kids will walk down an existing set of stairs that will be encased by the trunk of the tree, loosely model after South Dakota largest cottonwood tree. As they travel down, they will have opportunity to explore how a tree grows and discovery the life that the tree supports.

At the base of the tree, under the SDDC balcony, kids enter the underground world. Here young children will crawl through the tree roots to meet their inhabitants. At professionally designed stations, kids will become worms, tardigrades and other critters critical to soil health.

Phase one of the treehouse project will be kicked off in late September with a "before" party at which Rotarians and their families will view the current "mini" treehouse that inspired this project, they will get a "tour" of the new treehouse ideas and will sign up to participate in the various committees (event, design, build, fundraising, grant writing, photography, media, etc. It is a project goal to have all 100+ Rotarians in our club have their hands-on this project in some way.

In phase one of this two year project, the Rotary Treehouse Design committee will work with SDDC and the professional exhibit design company, Kidzibits, to create the design and building plan for the treehouse. Like a real tree, the Rotary Treehouse exhibit will grow from the ground-up, with Rotarians building the "underground" portion of the exhibit first. It should be complete and possibly usable by visitors by September 30, 2020.

The SD Natural Resource Conservation Service has identified the need to teach children and their families about the importance of soil health. For this reason, they have committed funding to help design and build this exhibit, about \$45,000 for phase one. These funds will cover much of the work to design the eight hands-on, critter kiosks where kids will role-play the activity of living things in the soil. The \$30,000 of Rotary contribution will fund professional design of the tree root climbing structure, and any supplies and/or professional work needed for the adaptation of the space under the balcony to an underground soil world.

This project will be located in the SD Discovery Center, 805 West Sioux Avenue, Pierre, SD. SDDC is a hands-on science center dedicated to building curious children, inspired educators and motivated citizens who value scientific knowledge and a healthy environment. About 30,000 visitors per year enjoy the

exhibit hall at SDDC, more than 40,000 participate in science education programs provided by SDDC all over the state of South Dakota. SDDC was founded in 1989 as a SD Centennial Living Legacy Project. Pierre Fort Pierre Rotarians have been committee supporters, as has the Rotary Club itself, since before the doors opened.

ESTIMATED START DATE OF PROJECT: September 30, 2019 **ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE:** September 30, 2020

3. Describe non-financial participation by Rotarians in the project (i.e., Rotarian activities).

It is the goal of the project committee to have all 100+ Rotarians have some kind of role in this project. Numerous committee opportunities (lead committee, grantwriting, design, build, history, public relations, events, fundraising plus work activities (shopping, building, painting, designing, setting up events, and more) will be available.

4. How will the general public know this is a Rotary-sponsored project? Please provide details, such as media publicity, report for the District news, or display of the Rotary logo.

This project's public relations committee will be responsible for using local and statewide media, social media, and Rotary publications to publicize many aspects of this project. A project history committee will photograph Rotary efforts and create some project document (power point, scrapbook, ??) to be used to celebrate and remember the project. The events committee may decide to host special events for specific groups, schools or afterschool program to test or open aspects of the exhibit. The design committee will find a high profile location for the Rotary logo and maybe some clever locations for other Rotary recognition within the exhibit. The Treehouse will become an iconic exhibit at the SD Discovery Center and a high profile visitor stop within the Capitol City. It will be featured in SDDC promotional materials and quite possibly Pierre Area and state tourism materials.

5. Project Contacts: Two Rotarians must be listed who will provide oversight and management of the project funds. One of these two individuals should enter project into www.matchinggrants.org/district and both should be given Administrative Access for the project there.

PRIMARY CONTACT NAME

Kristie Maher

ADDRESS

805 West Sioux Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501

TELEPHONE

605-280-3289

ROTARY POSITION / TITLE

Member, Treehouse Lead Committee

EMAIL

kristiemaher@sd-discovery.org

SECONDARY CONTACT NAME

Dianne Weyer

ADDRESS

125 West Pleasant Drive Pierre South Dakota 57501

TELEPHONE

605.224.4501

ROTARY POSITION / TITLE

Member, Treehouse Grant Writing Committee

EMAIL

dianneweyer@vistacare.org

6. Cooperating Organizations — If the project involves a cooperating organization, please provide the name of the organization below and attach a letter of participation from that organization that specifically states its

responsibilities and how Rotarians will interact with the organization in the project. By signing this application, the Rotarian sponsors endorse the organization as reputable, responsible, registered with the project country, and acting within the laws of the project country.

Cooperating Organization(s): South Dakota Discovery Center

8. Income (rounded to the nearest whole dollar)

| Source | Amount |
|---|------------------|
| District Grant Funds Requested | \$ 15,000 |
| Club Funds | \$ 15,000 |
| Other Income SD Natural Resource Conservation Service | \$ 45,000 |
| Click here to enter text. | \$ |
| Click here to enter text. | \$ |
| Click here to enter text. | \$ |
| Total Project Income | \$ 75,000 |

9. Expenses (rounded to the nearest whole dollar)

Please include a complete, detailed, and itemized budget for the entire project. Supporting documentation utilized for the development of this budget may be requested. Include pro-forma invoices for equipment that will be purchased through this grant. (please be specific and add an additional sheet as needed)

Remember that all expenditures will need to be supported by documentation.

| | Amount |
|--|------------------|
| Kidzibits Design/Build Services | \$ 45,0000 |
| Building & Installation Materials | \$ 25,0000 |
| Design Materials (paint supplies, labels, etc) | \$ 5000 |
| Click here to enter text. | \$ |
| Click here to enter text. | \$ |
| Click here to enter text. | \$ |
| Total Project Expenses (MUST MATCH TOTAL PROJECT INCOME!) | \$ 75,000 |

10. Authorization

All Rotary clubs/districts involved in this project are responsible to The Rotary Foundation for the conduct of the project and for reporting on it. *The electronic signatures entered on the www.matchinggrants.org website for this application confirm that the signors understand and accept the responsibility. The signatures also affirm that all information in this application is true and accurate, to the best of their knowledge.*

Grant Application for Rotary District 5610 District Grant # [Click here to enter text.](#)

In order to be considered, this application MUST be digitally signed on www.matchinggrants.org by the President(s) and at least one other club officer (President-Elect if known) of all sponsoring Rotary Clubs for the year that the grant will be funded. In addition, At least one of the contacts listed in Section 5 above must also digitally sign the application if they are not the President or President-Elect.

5610/CAP (Community Assistance Program) Grant Checklist

Rotary Year 2019-20

Initial each item and return with your application.

- ☒ The First Contact on this grant is the grant writer, who attended the Club Grant Training.
- ☒ The Club has submitted a signed Club Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the current year.
- ☒ The Club is in good standing with the IRS and has submitted a current IRS Form 990 receipt to prove their non-profit service club status.
- ☒ This project is a new effort for our club—it is not a project that we have done previously, either with CAP Grant or 5610 Grant funding or as an ongoing club-sponsored project.
- ☐ CAP Grants only: The club is matching (50%) the entire amount being requested, up to \$1000. The project may be larger than \$2000 (the grant plus the club's funding), but the maximum grant award is \$1000.
- ☒ This project is totally or at least primarily sponsored by the Rotary Club—we are not simply funding the project of another organization. No funds will be paid directly to another charitable organization.
- ☒ No funds will be utilized to support travel expenses, salaries, administrative or other overhead costs, or the operational costs of another organization.
- ☒ Work on the project will not begin until the grant is approved by the District and the Club has received the grant award (check is in the bank).
- ☒ The project will be completed in its entirety within 24 months of grant award. Reports will be provided to the District when required. (see the Grant Report for details).
- ☒ The lead/sponsor club agrees to adhere to all stewardship requirements set forth in the Club Memorandum of Understanding.
- ☒ The lead/sponsor club will publicly identify the project as Rotary sponsored.
- ☒ No funds from this grant will be used to directly benefit a Rotarian or any Rotary employee, including those employed by a club, district, Rotary International, or any other Rotary entity.
- ☒ No funds from this grant will be used to directly benefit a relative, including spouses and in-laws, of any Rotarian or Rotary employee as defined above.

Questions? Contact:

Bruce Young, District Grants Subcommittee Chair
(712) 541-9822
district5610grant@gmail.com

Deadline for 2019-2020 Rotary Year is July 31, 2019.