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Mini Grant 2020-2021 Due: March 12, 2021

2020/2021 MINI GRANT APPLICATION PERIOD IS NOW OPEN!

Got a great idea for an environmental STEM project? Need supplies for an EE lesson you're planning for your class? Looking for supplies to make environmental education and STEM distance learning more engaging for your students? MEEC's Mini Grant Program may be able to help.

For a limited time, MEEC is accepting proposals for *environmental and STEM education* school project and material mini-grants. Interested teachers should complete the following application by detailing desired materials, the project/materials' environmental component and how the project will address educational standards. **Eligible projects must demonstrate the following:**

- 1. An environmental connection/correlation
- 2. Correspond with current Common Core and/or Next Generation Science Standards

The application must also contain a timeline for project implementation and a budget or cost breakout based on the applicant's research of actual material costs, including shipping and handling, if applicable. Labor costs, food items and entrance fees are not eligible for funding. Projects must be implemented/materials must be used in classrooms located in the High Desert portion of San Bernardino County, the Antelope Valley or the Palo Verde Valley of Riverside County. Applicants must also teach within these same jurisdictions.

Funded projects must be completed/purchased by **May 21, 2021**. Average grant amount will vary from \$100 to \$500, but may be higher. Individual award amounts to be determined by MEEC. Only one grant will be awarded per teacher per school year.

Applications will be reviewed and awarded on a first come first served basis on a bi-weekly basis.

Garden Grants Available for Distance Learning Due: April 1st, 2021

MEEC is accepting proposals for environmental school gardens. School garden funds provide basic tools necessary to start or sustain a school garden project. Suitable projects may include but are not limited to: seeds, soil, equipment, building materials, low water-use irrigation materials, trees, plants, greenhouse supplies, and composting materials. Interested teachers should complete the online application by detailing desired materials, the project/materials' environmental component and how the project will address educational standards. The application must also contain a timeline for project implementation and a budget or cost breakout based on the applicant's research of actual material costs, including shipping and handling, if applicable. Labor costs and prepared food items are not eligible for funding. Your school's name, mailing address and a contact number/email must be included on the application for consideration. Projects must be implemented/materials must be used in classrooms/schools located in the High Desert portion of San Bernardino County, the Antelope Valley or the Palo Verde Valley of Riverside County. Applicants must also teach within these same jurisdictions.

Maximum grant amount is \$500. Individual award amounts to be determined by MEEC. Grants may be used for hands-on gardening lessons with your students as distance learning continues. The application period is open until program budgeted funds have been depleted or until April 1st of the school year, whichever come first. No applications will be accepted after April 1st. Applications are received and time stamped using web-based application and exported to Google Forms spread sheet. Applications will be reviewed on a biweekly basis by the Program Specialist. Application link below.

https://forms.gle/9jfvQPWEnihwTMrNA

After review, grant recipients will receive an email notifying them of the materials they were approved to purchase. A check will follow in the mail within 30 days. Non-awardees will be notified via email why their application was denied and may resubmit their application again for a future review period.

Grant recipients are required to submit a copy of receipts for the purchase of project materials to MEEC no later than **May 28, 2021**. Additionally, recipients

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and location. Photos may be used in future issues of MEEC newsletters or other publications.

For more information or questions, please contact MEEC Program Specialist, Samantha Murray at smurray@mdaqmd.ca.gov or 760-245-1661 ext. 6717.

2021 Environmental Science and Engineering Scholarship

Due: March 12, 2021

The Mojave Environmental Education Consortium is pleased to announce its 2021 Environmental Science and Engineering Scholarship Program. MEEC will be awarding five scholarships for the 2020-2021 academic year. Graduating high school seniors attending high school within MEEC's boundaries are encouraged to apply.

MEEC's boundaries consist of the High Desert portion of San Bernardino County, the Palo Verde Valley of Riverside County and the High Desert region of North Los Angeles County, including the cities of Lancaster and Palmdale.

Scholarships will be awarded to five eligible graduating high school seniors in the amount of \$2,500 each. Recipient must attend a high school located within MEEC's boundaries as described above. To be eligible students must declare a major in Environmental Science, Environmental Engineering, or other closely related Science or Engineering field.

The mission of the Mojave Environmental Education Consortium (MEEC) is to improve the environmental literacy of students, teachers and Mojave Desert communities by actively providing quality educational resources. MEEC was founded in 2001 and is the High Desert zone of the California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC) Network, a project of the California Department of Education.

- 1. A completed application form (https://forms.gle/QnQ3aAQjoxUbaWjQ7).
- Transcripts and SAT/ACT scores* (unofficial copies accepted- if applicable)
- 3. 500 word personal essay on "My Career Goals and Why I would like a Career in the Environmental Science, or Engineering field"
- 4. Applications must be received digitally no later than 11:59 PM, on March 12, 2021.

*Due to COVID-19, we understand that test dates have been cancelled/postponed. If you have SAT/ACT scores, please include them with your application, however for the 2020-2021 academic year, you will not penalized for not including them.

Please contact Samantha Murray, MEEC Program Specialist, at (760) 245-1661 ext. 6717, for questions or assistance with application.

Now Accepting 2020–2021 Student of the Year Nominations

MEEC is proud to sponsor its MEEC Annual "Students of the Year" Awards for the 2020-2021 School Year. Each Student of the Year recipient will receive \$60 in cash as well as a \$60 Staples gift card.

To this end, we are soliciting your nomination for the next "Student of the Year." The nomination can come from either a principal or teacher. When selecting your student nominee, the nominator must take into consideration the work that the student has done in leadership toward environmental issues and stewardship. The following stipulations will serve as a guide for assisting you in the nomination process:

The student must attend school within MEEC boundaries. MEEC's boundaries consist of the High Desert portion of San Bernardino County, the Palo Verde Valley of Riverside County and the High Desert region of North Los Angeles County, including the cities of Lancaster and Palmdale.

 The student will be nominated by a teacher or principal from his/her school.

 I he student has educated peer students, school employees or community in environmental issues or conservation.

- The student must have above average academic standing (>2.0 GPA for secondary, and the equivalent for primary grades).
- The student must display leadership qualities, possess good character and a good reputation among peers, and not be a disciplinary problem.
- Each teacher may nominate only one student, however schools may submit multiple nominations.

Please take the time to complete the online nomination form at: https://forms.gle/nfopG8Ky2MorrYxa8.

Deadline for entries is 11:59 PM March 12, 2020.

2020–2021 Teacher of the Year Nomination Period Open

MEEC is soliciting nominations from principals, teachers, parents or community members of an exceptional educator from your school that you feel would be most worthy of this prestigious recognition. We are looking for an educator who makes continuous and enduring contributions to environmental education, demonstrates capacity for creating and implementing successful environmental activities, shows creative approaches, promotes individual and societal environmental responsibility, and encourages youth to make informed decisions about environmental issues. The teacher must teach within MEEC boundaries. MEEC's boundaries consist of the High Desert portion of San Bernardino County, the Palo Verde Valley of Riverside County and the High Desert region of North Los Angeles County, including the cities of Lancaster and Palmdale. Online nomination form available at: https://forms.gle/SzxBwY43ZYKaZB74A.

Deadline for nominations is Friday, March 12, 2021 at 11:59 PM.

Please contact MEEC Program Specialist Samantha Murray at 760-245-1661 ext. 6717 if you have any questions.

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