



Application No. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Will be assigned when received.)

## 2009 Grant Application

All grant applications are evaluated by the Programs Committee based solely on how well the project meets the criteria outlined in the Application Guidelines AND the amount of funding dollars available. Applications are anonymous during the review process. This form will accompany your application when it goes to the committee for review.

### Program Committee Cover Sheet

## Science Olympiad & Enrichment Programs

Project Title

\$6,000  
Amount Requested

### 3. Proposal Narrative

A. Describe the proposed program, project or activity.

This D205 Grant will service all 12 public schools in Elmhurst, providing each with a budget to support their science extracurricular activities in the 2009 school year. In the past several years, the desire to participate in science educational activities like clubs, fairs, hands-on Fun Nights and competitive Science Olympiad teams has spread like wildfire, spurred on by the action and innovation of dedicated parents and teachers. This grant seeks \$500 for each of the 12 D205 schools, to be used for each building's creative science extracurricular endeavors. (A table below in the application shows science activity in 2008)

B. Describe the creative and/or innovative aspects of this program and why they are significant.

At many elementary schools, the entire student body is invited to engage in fun, challenging and sometimes, thrilling, science activities, led by local scientists, doctors, engineers, airline pilots and chemists. Parents lead groups of students from room to room, dressed alike, as a team, and experience the joy of hands-on inquiry.

*"Thank you for this important academic enrichment program. Conrad Fischer is planning to hold our third annual Science Olympiad on February 7, and I am happy to say that thanks to the efforts of teachers and parents, this is one of our most popular events. Last year almost 200 students participated! Feel free to drop by to see the fun and learning in action." - Liz Eder, Conrad Fischer PTA President 2007*



*"We currently have 89 students participating in our Science Club at Emerson School! That number continues to grow and we also have parents who attend each event. We do events like Egg Drop, Catapults, Draw A Doodle, Bridge Building and Airplanes. All of the activities were taken from the Science Olympiad format. Our first grade teacher is the sponsor. Thanks!" - Shari Haug, Emerson School PTA President 2008*

The Elmhurst Police Department, Elmhurst College, Lizzadro Museum and other community standards have been a part of these science events for the past 8 years. In the upper grades, teachers and parents act as coaches, just like on the athletic teams, working for months to prepare for a regional competition in the spring, with the hopes to "make it to state," just like the "jocks" in town. What's more exciting is that by the time these engaged learners reach high school, a deep love of science and an abiding curiosity has been cemented into their DNA -- ensuring that those who might not have pursued advanced courses in science and technology might now do so, with vigor and enthusiasm.



C. What specific need or opportunity does this program address?

According to the American Association of University Women, the percentage of girls who say they like science in 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade drops precipitously, from 66% in elementary school to a low of 48% of seniors. With jobs in science and engineering expected to increase by 2.2% in 2010, as predicted by the National Academy of Sciences, and 8 of the 10 fastest-growing occupations occurring in science, math or technology fields, we need science in and OUT of school more than ever. A Nelson Diversity Survey from 2005 states that only 23% of science and engineering jobs are held by women. Last year, on the Sandburg Middle School Science Olympiad team, girls comprised 80% of the membership and sent their team to the state finals.

*"The incorporation of content areas into extracurricular opportunities for students is not only great educational practice but it is a proactive means of enabling students to generalize and expand upon concepts learned inside the classroom to activities outside of the classroom. Within the past several years, there has been an increased interest in the science extracurricular opportunities provided to our students. Within the context of these programs, students have been able to participate in competitions with their same-aged peers throughout the state while advancing their science knowledge. Because the science extracurricular programs involve parents in the process, the home-school partnership is further strengthened. Elmhurst District 205's commitment to the science extracurricular continues to grow, providing more students with engaged learning experiences." - Dr. Lynn Krizic, Superintendent, District 205 Community Schools, December 31, 2008*

D. Who is the targeted population, and approximately how many will benefit?  
 We are targeting every student, kindergarten through seniors, in District 205 schools. All 12 D205 schools have some sort of science extracurricular activity, from a science club that meets during lunch at Emerson Elementary to Science Olympiad Fun Nights at several K-5 schools to competitive science teams at Bryan, Sandburg and York. The Science Olympiad program in D205 reaches approximately **1,400** elementary students and more than **160** secondary students annually. An influx of new funding support will allow teachers and parents to offer other science enrichment events and opportunities, pay for supplies and materials, as well as keep current Science Olympiad programs going strong.

E. Describe your program's implementation plan, with timetable  
 In 2005, two parent volunteers entered a national magazine contest and won a \$10,000 grant for providing the "Best K-12 Volunteer Program in the Midwest." To celebrate science throughout the district, the Edison group decided to share the \$10,000 among the 12 public schools in Elmhurst, which they called "Seed Money For Science" in the hopes that the funding would cause science extracurricular activities to grow and grow (which it did!). Over a period of three years, the money was disbursed by the D205 Finance Department when each school provided receipts up to a certain amount. See the table below for a sample of how each school was given the flexibility in 2008 to use the funding for the type of program that best fit the school population.

School	PTA President	Amount	Event	Date
Edison School	Kristen McGirk	\$358.46	Science Olympiad Night Science Club, Starlab & Science	March 12, 2008
Emerson School	Shari Haug	\$750	Olympiad Night	Early Spring 2008
Field School	Jill Riecker	\$407.17	Science Olympiad Night	March 27, 2008
Conrad Fischer School	Liz Eder	\$500	Science Olympiad Night	February 7, 2008
Hawthorne School	Julie Hvorka	\$750	Science Hobby Fair & Science Olympiad for 4th & 5th Grades	Early Spring 2008
Jackson School	Sherri Pennel	\$549.31	Science Olympiad Night	March 6, 2008
Jefferson School	Janis Foster	\$500	Science Olympiad Night	October 16, 2007
Lincoln School	Maureen Polte	\$750	2 Science Olympiad Nights	Jan. 31 & Feb. 7, 2008
Bryan MS	Gerald Bell	\$300	Science Olympiad Team	Regional - March 8, 2008
Churchville MS	Maria Corbo	\$413.20	Science Event	Date TBD
Sandburg MS	Kim Kurczek	\$300	Science Olympiad Team	Regional - March 8, 2008
York HS	Sue Williams	\$450	ACT/PSAE Science Prep Course	Winter & Spring 2008

While every event was different, each school was able to use the funding for what it needed most -- supplies, registration fees or educational materials. With all K-5 science programs routinely handled by the PTA, we informally polled the PTA leadership to see if they'd like to receive standard amounts in a single check or would prefer a pool on which each could draw. Most selected equitable \$500 payments as the easiest disbursement choice.

F. How will this program enhance the curriculum and improve lesson plans? Science nights that have been offered at the elementary schools and the SO teams at the middle schools provide hands-on learning activities which spark the imagination and illuminate the world of science. The number of motivated and excited students who join the science events is increasing every year. Some of the great things these science enrichment programs do are increase the in-depth knowledge and understanding of science concepts and general knowledge. The events also allow children to experience science as real scientists would and they begin to see the interrelatedness of the sciences. Students learn the importance of trial and error and collaborative and/or creative thinking. They are applying critical thinking skills and constant experimentation to solve problems at hand. All of this makes science education more exciting and may encourage students to take more science courses at York and beyond.

G. List 2-4 objectives or desired outcomes of this program.

- Students will become more excited about science, bringing science to life and showing how science works
- Students will develop teamwork, time management, and cooperative learning strategies.
- Students will improve their problem-solving skills

H. What additional benefits might be realized by others in your school and has this possibility been explored with them?

The science enrichment opportunities get our children excited about science and also about teamwork. At the elementary level, each group is required to choose a team name and a team color and encouraged to dress the part on the night of the event. It adds an aura of fun and a splash of excitement to science. Parents are also offered a great volunteer opportunity -- one that allows them to open their child's eyes to the world of science. By assisting with a Science Olympiad team or other science enrichment program, they can share their love of science with their child. There are many possibilities for parent involvement, from team leaders to event assistants, and the roles are always filled with volunteers eager to become involved in their child's excitement with an educational event.

I. How will you measure success

Since science extracurricular activities have blossomed over the past nine years in D205, we estimate nearly 2,000 students in the district are involved annually in a science club, science event or on a competitive team, roughly 25% of the citywide enrollment. Funding will help these programs continue, since they rely not only on great leaders, but also tangible items. We hope that each year, we can continue to serve 2,000+ students in D205.

**4. Project Finances** - respond to the following:

- A. Detail an expense budget. Include start up costs and ongoing costs (e.g. replacement parts)

For a good view of what it costs to run a typical K-5 elementary Science Olympiad Fun Night, see the attached budget sample. A rough estimate is about \$1 - \$2 per student participant, which is never passed on to the family, but paid for from donations, school funds or PTA budgets. So for an Edison Elementary event reaching 250 members of the student body, the budget was about \$500 total. At the MS and HS level, each competitive team must register with the state organization and pay entrance fees for tournaments, usually about \$200 per team. In addition, MS and HS teams utilize a small supply budget for building materials (balsa wood, robot parts, batteries, lab equipment) and team t-shirts. In many cases, parents provide these items.

- B. What sources other than the Foundation can you appeal to for funding?

To date, all science programs have been funded by a combination of sources, including PTA funding (see attached); D205 club or activity stipends at the MS and HS level; private donations from parents and businesses; student fundraisers such as the recent Sandburg Middle School Science Olympiad Team pizza, soda and candy sale at the Bryan v. Sandburg 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys' Basketball game, which netted \$175 in profit! For this to all come together, it truly "takes a village!"

- C. How might your project be implemented with partial or incremental funding?

Partial funding would allow us to help fund the schools to a smaller extent.