



EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE RESEARCH

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To: Public School Principals in Oklahoma

From: Shelley D. Wear, Special Programs Coordinator

Re: K-12 Science-related Field Trip Grants for 2008

The Oklahoma Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) and the Oklahoma Museum Network are proud to announce the K-12 science-related field trip initiative. Funds are currently available to public schools for entrance fees and/or transportation reimbursement for K-12 science-related field trips to any of the five science museums in the Oklahoma Museum Network funded by the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation plus the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History:

Science Museum Oklahoma (formerly Omniplex) – Oklahoma City, OK;
Tulsa Air and Space Museum – Tulsa, OK;
Leonardo's Discovery Warehouse – Enid, OK;
Jasmine Moran Children's Museum – Seminole, OK;
Museum of the Great Plains – Lawton, OK;
Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History – Norman, OK.

This science-related field trip program is designed to provide enrichment experiences for students that compliment the science curricula taught in the classroom. Each participating museum offers various hands-on science demonstrations or labs that students participate in during an EPSCoR-sponsored field trip. These interactive labs were developed to spark students' interest in science and mathematics. **EPSCoR will issue grant awards for field trips which must be taken between August 15, 2008 and November 21, 2008.** Please apply as soon as possible to increase your school's chances of receiving a grant.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SCIENCE FIELD TRIP FUNDING:

Schools are chosen on a first-come, first-served basis and must meet at least two of the following criteria:

- 1) receives Title VII (Indian Education) funding;
- 2) at least 70% of student body qualifies for free or reduced lunch program;
- 3) at least 25% of student body comes from underrepresented groups (blacks, Hispanics and American Indians) **or** schools are from underserved rural districts;
- 4) placement/standing on the State Department of Education School Improvement List.

NOTE: Only one application package per school will be accepted. Each school (i.e., elementary, middle, high school, etc.) within a district are eligible to submit one package. A school package must include one application form per teacher. All applications for your school must be submitted at one time. Additional applications received from a school that has already submitted a package will be declined.

To receive an EPSCoR award schools must agree to:

- 1) complete a grant application form with **two signatures**: one from sponsoring teacher and one from the school principal;

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- 2) **(after receiving an award letter)** agree to make reservations with a participating museum and schedule at least one hands-on science lab/demonstration to be conducted during the field trip;
- 3) agree to return field trip report(s) (one per teacher), transportation invoice (where appropriate) and other requested documents no later than 15 days after the field trip; All trips must be completed by November 21, 2008.

Schools must receive an official EPSCoR award letter prior to taking a field trip (NO RETROACTIVE AWARDS WILL BE MADE). For awards that include transportation funds, an additional agreement is required and must be fully executed prior to travel. This agreement will be sent to the principal by Ms. Valerie Pogue, EPSCoR Program Manager, in the event that your school receives an official award. Schools receiving transportation awards agree to incur transportation costs and invoice EPSCoR after completion of trip. EPSCoR will pay entrance fees directly to the participating museum.

Please provide a complete budget when returning your application. Incomplete applications will not be processed. The chart below may be used to calculate entrance fees for the museums participating in this program. *Please note that EPSCoR awards cannot provide funds for special attractions such as OmniDome.* Schools are allowed to request funds for entrance fees for adults who attend as chaperones in an effort to ensure proper supervision of students. Applications that request transportation reimbursement may include mileage for the trip and cost of bus driver(s). Schools must verify transportation costs if requested and will be asked to generate an itemized invoice after the trip.

Please calculate your budget as closely as possible to your expected need. This will allow more students to participate in the program. Pricing includes entrance fee plus one hands-on lab/demo. Additional interactive science labs and special attractions are available at school's expense. EPSCoR discounted museum entrance fee rates are available on the EPSCoR website at:
http://www.okepscor.org//programs/K-12/Entrance_Fee_Calculator_2008.pdf

Enclosed for your convenience is one grant application. Additionally, electronic application forms and guidelines are available on-line at: <http://www.okepscor.org/programs/k12.html>. **Please use one form per teacher and submit one package containing ALL trip requests for your school at one time. Please coordinate this with your principal.**

If your school is interested in receiving a K-12 Science Field Trip Grant, has the financial need, and meets the eligibility requirements listed above, please complete and return application(s) to: **Ms. Valerie Pogue, Program Manager, Oklahoma EPSCoR, 415 Whitehurst, Stillwater, OK 74078-1038 or Fax: 405.744.7688.** For questions regarding the application process or if you need assistance with your budget please contact Ms. Shelley D. Wear at 405.225.9287 or via email at swear@osrhe.edu.