



To: Elementary teachers of Bellaire, Central Lake, Kalkaska, and Mancelona School Districts

From: Three Lakes Association
Steven Laurenz, Education Committee Chair

Re: Notification of the Science Education Outreach Program grant application for the 2025-2026 school year

Dear Elementary Teacher,

Three Lakes Association (TLA) is excited to announce our Science Education and Outreach Program (SEOP) grant opportunity once again. These grants will support science and nature experiences in the 2025/2026 school year that get students interacting with the natural world and live human beings (not recordings), such as field trips, outdoor activities, and visits with experts. This grant can fund fees, equipment, or transportation to make these experiences possible.

The grant application will open on March 18, 2025, with a submission deadline of April 30, 2025. The SEOP grant allows you to provide students with an enhanced environmental science experience. Previous grants have been approved for field trips to the Grass River Natural Area, Sleeping Bear Dunes, fish hatcheries, and the Great Lakes Children's Museum. A "not all encompassing" list of ideas with access links is available on the website, <https://www.3lakes.com/seop-grants-overview/>. Get creative! We want to help spark enthusiasm in these future stewards of our lakes and waters. Another possible grant opportunity, not through TLA, to help cover the transportation costs is:

<https://www.michiganplt.org/home>

Link to the Winter 2025 newsletter with articles on the SEOP program:

<https://www.3lakes.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/TLA-Newsletter-Winter-2025-FINAL.pdf>

Three Lakes Association is proud to offer this opportunity to all elementary teachers in the districts bordering our three lakes. We do require participating teachers report to our organization once during the school year and again at the end of the school year to tell us about the student experience. Suggested ways of reporting are included on the website. A form is provided to aid in the reporting process: [feedback form](#). To increase the awareness of this program, in your communication with parents please note the sponsorship by Three Lakes Association. This could be via your standard permission slips, etc. Feel free to link to our [SEOP website](#). Please share the method of communication with parents that you use. A section is available in the above linked feedback form to provide that information.

The grant application and instructions are posted on the Three Lakes Association (3lakes.com) website at:

<https://www.3lakes.com/seop-grants-overview/> Please apply online at: <https://www.3lakes.com/seop-grant-application/> or follow the links on the website under Education Programs, where you will find information on the SEOP program and access the grant application and feedback agreement.

If you are not familiar with this program, please feel free to contact me directly and/or check out the information on our website.

Please contact me with any questions.
Science Education Outreach Program
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