

# Sample Environmental Action Civics Proposal

## Project Description

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We know environmental education provides many benefits for students, staff and communities. In order to address the most pressing environmental issues, however, we need action in addition to education. This can be daunting for anyone to address, especially at the community scale. Environmental Civics is an approach designed by Earth Force that develops civic skills via service learning, civic engagement and STEM activities in order to produce tangible and productive environmental change at whatever level of community students and instructors identify.

A *Best Summer Ever* proposal focusing on Environmental Action Civics should support students in the process of designing a project to address environmental issues they care about and identifying, planning for, and enacting solutions to the chosen challenge in collaboration with community. A proposal in this category should include flexibility in approach and planning to enable youth-directed learning and must be able to showcase student agency in the process. There are many potential issues and solutions to address – reach out to BSB or Earth Force for additional guidance in developing a proposal. Because this process is student-led, we don't know what the action project will be as we write the proposal. Therefore, it might be helpful to consider general budget categories.

## Budget Justification

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- Direct Personnel
  - \$6,000 for 3 H.S. or College staff x \$12.50/10hr/week x 16 weeks
    - Guide student involvement in Earth Force process
    - Facilitate student interaction in discussions and activities
    - Assist instructors to guide student lessons / activities
- Supplies
  - \$5,000 for project materials
    - Citizen science tools and supplies
    - Brainstorming materials
    - Supplies and materials to enable student solution
      - If possible, work with students prior to submitting application; if that is not feasible, create flexible budget categories.
    - Supplies for student to present findings and solutions to stakeholders
- Training and Outreach
  - \$1,000 for parent, family, and community engagement events
    - Outreach materials
    - Event supplies
    - Event activities

- Consider training or event/activity facilitation from local council members, natural resource district board members and staff, environmental engineers, and conservation professionals as experts to guide both student and staff experiences. Many professionals and organizations will donate time, but funds can be allocated here if needed.
- Other
  - \$3,000 for field trips
    - Enrich investigation of environmental challenges
    - Visit examples of problems and solutions to identified environmental challenge(s)
    - Enact developed action plan
    - Present findings and solutions to stakeholders
- Summary:
  - \$6,000 for 3 student leaders for 16 weeks
  - \$5,000 for research, implementation, and presentation supplies
  - \$1,000 for parent, family, and community engagement
  - \$3,000 for field trips

**Table 1. Sample Budget**

Supply / Material	Price for each	Total	Notes
Citizen science materials			Science kits, experiments, microscopes, etc.
Research tools			Giant sticky notes, poster boards, notebooks,
Outdoor exploration materials			Binoculars, water testing kits, butterfly nets, shovels, etc.
Brainstorming tools and toys			Knex, student whiteboards / chalkboards, toy models, etc.
Community awareness tools			Posters, clipboards, software to design outreach graphics, recording equipment for radio or video, etc.
Field trip supplies			Snacks, student bags, folders, sample collection jars or bins, camera to document challenges and/or solutions, etc.
Family and Community showcase			Food, presentation materials, games, activities, etc. – fun event to celebrate student work.
Student staff (3)	2,000	6,000	3 HS staff x 12.50/hr x 10 hrs/week x 16 weeks
Field Trips (3)	1,000	3,000	Transportation, admission, etc.
Parent, Family and Community event	1,000	1,000	Food, events, materials, etc.



- PBS – Election Collection – <https://net.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/election-collection/>
  - In this collection there are *Videos (63), Documents (17), Lesson Plans (6), Media Gallery Items (8), Interactives (5), Interactive Lessons (1), Webpages (2) for Grades 4-13+ , Resources in Spanish (2)*
- PBS Crash Courses - <https://iowa.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/crash-course/>
  - Government and Politics: grades 9-12 - <https://net.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/crash-course-government-and-politics/>
  - PBS Crash Course US History engaging live and animated videos, grades 9-12 - <https://net.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/crash-course-us-history/>
- PBS - Arthur All About Community (Prek- Grade 4) - <https://net.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/arthur-community/>
  - Appreciating and Understanding Diversity
  - The Arts: Dance, Art, Music, and Play
  - Civics: Making a Difference
  - Social Emotional Skills
- Accountability for a Quality Education System, Today and Tomorrow - <https://aquestt.com/>
  - This is an accountability system that integrates components of accountability, assessment, accreditation, career education, and data into a system of school improvement and support. For schools who use this system, these lessons can help track 5/6 AQuESTT domains. Evidence Based Assessment

#### Additional Links:

- 4H Youth Developmental Organization: free activities, health, civic engagement, STEM, etc. - <http://www.4-h.org>
- Civics 101: grades 4-8 teaching NE specific governmental issues - <https://net.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/civics-101/>
- Civil Dialogues: conversations on various topics with specific rules on norms for discussion - <https://civildialogues.org/>
- Deliberating in a Democracy (Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago): civic action, mock trials, California based internships - <https://crfcap.org/>
- Democracy in Action (Mikva Challenge): youth voice, action civics - <http://www.mikvachallenge.org>
- Equity in Education White Paper: challenges of reaching students of color with civics education - <https://spark.adobe.com/page/npr1t53gjePgH/>
- Facing History and Ourselves: anti-racism - <http://www.facinghistory.org>
- Future Business Leaders of America–Phi Beta Lambda: middle and high school future businesspeople - <http://www.fbla-pbl.org>
- Future Educators Association: advice for aspiring teachers, includes educational games, etc. - <http://futureeducators.org>

- Generation Citizen: action civics, issue-oriented activities - <http://generationcitizen.org>
- George Washington U.: a site where people can join conversations about civic life and health - [CivilDialogues.org](http://CivilDialogues.org)
- Gilder Lehrman American History: excellent American history primary documents - <http://gilderlehrman.org>
- Key Club International: student led high school service organization - <http://www.keyclub.org/home.aspx>
- KIDS Consortium: Harkins Consulting LLC, for pay trainings and materials for service learning - <http://www.kidsconsortium.org>
- Model UN - <http://www.nmun.org>
- Mr. Donn's Site for Kids and Teachers: history, government, mock trials – games, videos, information - <https://www.mrdonn.org/>
- NE Bar Foundation has databases for Civics education - <https://www.nebarfnd.org/civics-education/civics-education-overview>
- Nebraska State Social Studies 2019 Civics Standards – <https://cdn.education.ne.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Nebraska-Social-Studies-Standards-Final-11-2019.pdf>
- Scholastic: “So You Want to be the President” Kid Reporter video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gcc0KpXtl5c>
- Scientific American: Citizen Science projects that students can be a part of - <https://www.scientificamerican.com/citizen-science/>
- State of America (JSA) and Junior Statesmen Foundation (JSF): high school, government, politics, advocacy - <https://www.jsa.org/>
- Volunteer Nebraska guide to selecting and implementing volunteer work <http://www.volunteernebraska.org/>
- We the People: simulated Congressional hearings for ES and HS - <http://new.civiced.org/programs/wtp>
- YouTube: Kids' Academy: President of the United States - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VR-5Pq\\_26YI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VR-5Pq_26YI)
- YouTube: Liberty's Kids - 47 animated 20-25 min films on the founding of America - <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHeaIWvdbER3Ic90BzhPsH2aJ5KI3UtmM>