

Pea Island and Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge

Educational Grant Program through the Coastal Wildlife Refuge Society

The Coastal Wildlife Refuge Society (CWRS) is the non-profit support group for Alligator River and Pea Island National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) in eastern North Carolina. One of the major thrusts of the CWRS is to foster educational opportunities for K-12 groups that utilize the resources of the refuges for educational enrichment and encourage students to explore the riches of these coastal environments.

To achieve this goal, the CWRS is pleased to announce two targeted grant programs available to K-12 public and private institutions. The first is for educational field trips to either Pea Island or Alligator River NWR that are limited in scope and duration, typically for a single session on the refuge. The CWRS will provide support for transportation costs associated with each outing.

The second targeted program addresses those educational ventures that are of longer duration and focus on a specific educational objective (s) that requires multiple outing on the refuge. A typical proposal would be one in which students investigate changes in the environment over time, collecting data and making records of their observations. For these ventures, the CWRS will support transportation costs as well as targeted equipment and supplies (not available through the refuge) that are essential to meet the objectives of the proposed work. The costs of supplies and equipment cannot exceed 25% of the total proposal costs. Candidates are encouraged to inquire of the USFWS regarding equipment (e.g., waders, GPS, etc.) that can be provided.

For both categories of funding, the CWRS places a priority on the following:

- Engaging as many students as possible across all grade levels and counties in eastern North Carolina;
- Covering transportation costs for refuge-sponsored activities and participation in Wildfest;
- Encouraging longer-term projects that foster exploration and appropriate levels of discovery and record keeping (i.e., digital, photographic, web-based, GPS)
- Interfacing the outings with the staff of Pea Island and Alligator River NWR, which is best achieved by initiating discussions with the NWR staff before the proposal is submitted;
- Disseminating the products of the excursions and research to a broader community using electronic (e.g., web based), visual (display boards), seminars, and traditional media (e.g., newspapers); and
- Accountability of the activities through interaction with the CWRS K-12 committee such that all parties are engaged to maximize the value of the endeavor.

Since funds are limited, proposals will be considered on a “first come, first serve” basis.

For further information regarding these two opportunities, please contact Gail Dries at (dreisga@dare.K12.nc.us; 252.441.8888, extension 2252).