Cover Sheet

Applicant Information:

Name: Alyssa Turner

Project Name: Trash Bash

Organization requesting funds: Navarre Beach Sea Turtle Conservation Center

Organization Address: 8740 Gulf Blvd. Navarre, FL 32566

Type of Applicant: ☐ K-12 School or District ☐ University ☐ County or State Agency

☒ Non-Governmental Organization ☐ Tribal Agency ☐ Other _____

Amount of Funds Requested: $5,203.00

Amount of Match Provided: $3,428.70

Total Value of the Project: $8,631.70

Partner Organization(s): Navarre High School & Greg Jones Studio

Congressional District in which the project will occur: Florida's 1st Congressional District

Proposal Summary

The Navarre Beach Sea Turtle Conservation Center (NBSTCC) is a nonprofit organization located in Navarre, Florida. The mission of the NBSTCC consists of conservation, education, and research. This ties into their vision which states that they strive "to impress upon the community the importance of sea turtle conservation and the preservation of the world's marine resources for the enjoyment of future generations. [They] accomplish this through education and hands on learning experiences and inspire individuals by showing them that one person can make a difference not only locally but also globally" (NBSTCC, n.d.).

Since 2014, the NBSTCC has held monthly Trash Bash beach clean-ups where around 100 community volunteers help collect litter and marine debris along a 4.5 mile stretch of Navarre Beach, Florida (NBSTCC, n.d.). While this program has been successful in its longevity and initial goal, there exists an opportunity gap between what is currently being done and what can be done. Essentially, the only community members who participate in the program are frequent volunteers for the organization. Hence, there is room to expand the program by getting other individuals involved. Specifically, the proposed environmental education program would be an extenuation of the current "Trash-Bash" program and would be geared toward getting younger people involved who may not be otherwise. Because Navarre Beach is a popular hang-out spot for students between the ages of 14 and 18, it makes the most sense to expand this program by getting Navarre High School students involved. The program will teach them the importance of preventing pollution and keeping the public beaches at a decent level of environmental quality while emphasizing the detrimental effects that chemical pollution from marine debris can have on a habitat.

Thus, the environmental education Trash Bash program that would be expanded through this grant funding would have a target audience of Navarre High School students. In addition, and as a result of attending the program, the students would be able to better understand how waste can have a negative impact on the environment and why it is especially important to be mindful of their own actions when out on the beach. Added curriculum to the Trash Bash activity will provide students with a wholistic educational understanding of the issue in addition to the actual beach clean-up. Overall, this will address the interests of the funder (the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) because it will focus on meeting one educational opportunity and one EPA strategic priority. The educational opportunity will be community stewardship or engaging in community-based issue education that results in improved environmental quality. The EPA strategic priority will be pollution prevention. Ultimately, this proposed program will also meet the NBSTCC's goals because it will focus on the founding principles of conservation and education while simultaneously providing safer habitats for sea turtles in the area.

With a target total budget of $8,631.70, the NBSTCC is requesting $5,203.00 from the EPA. Between the NBSTCC and its two partners, Navarre High School and Greg Jones Studio, the matching funds totaling to $3,428.70 will be obtained.

Project Description

Why

Located along the Florida Panhandle, Navarre Beach is home to 12 miles of breathtakingly white shoreline. The area frequently receives recognition for being one of the best beach destinations in the United States, and there are endless opportunities to enjoy the beauty of the location's nature (Visit Florida, n.d.). Unfortunately, it is not uncommon to stumble upon trash even while visiting one of the most peaceful environments. For example, in Cocoa Beach, Florida, over 13,000 pounds of garbage was collected during one weekend in May 2020 (Davidson, 2020). While not as drastic, yet nevertheless important, the NBSTCC reports that it alone collects between 1,200 and 2,000 pounds of garbage annually on just a 4.5 mile stretch of Navarre Beach (NBSTCC, n.d.). Furthermore, "five species of sea turtles occur in Florida, and all are in danger of extinction. Many of the reasons these turtles are declining are a result of people's actions on beaches and in shallow coastal waters" (Swindall et al., 2020). Thus, a needs assessment indicates that there is both an environmental issue and an audience need within the community, and the proposed program will work to focus on those necessities and "produce responsive, responsible benefits that address [them]" (NAAEE, p.7). It is evident that maintaining and bolstering the Trash Bash beach clean-up remains a vital initiative. Additionally, it is important to teach young adults about the consequences of beach debris and how they can help mitigate the damage (EPA, 2021). Because of these reasons, the need for this project clearly exists: the NBSTCC seeks to expand its Trash Bash program to include high school students in an effort to foster conservation while teaching about the community-based issue that is present at a global scale.

The implementation of this project will address the aforementioned need in several ways. First, it will provide students with a hands-on opportunity to learn community stewardship by improving the quality of the local environment. This means that the quantity of garbage found on Navarre Beach will be managed throughout the program and an improved sense of a clean community may ensue. Also, because teenagers are the frequent beachgoers of the area, the project will seek to teach pollution prevention habits while focusing on overall conservation of the area and the consequences of present marine debris. All in all, the project will focus on meeting one educational opportunity and one EPA strategic priority. The educational opportunity will be community stewardship or engaging in community-based issue education that results in improved environmental quality. The EPA strategic priority will be pollution prevention. Plus, it is fitting for the NBSTCC to deliver this program because of its well-known roll in the community of being an organization that works hard to provide safer habitats for sea turtles in the area while fostering an environmental learning atmosphere. This ties in nicely with the NAAEE's key characteristic of organizational needs and capacities because it will ultimately support the NBSTCC's "mission, purpose, and goals" (NAAEE, p.10). Since the Trash Bash program is already known in the area, it will allow parents to feel more comfortable sending their child to a project facilitated by the nonprofit. Furthermore, the program's

simplistic design and credible justifications lends itself to being easily replicable or expandable if necessary. Depending on location and participant numbers, it can be scaled up to serve more students in a school or copied by similar organizations located along beaches.

Who

The target audience that the program will reach is the students at Navarre High School. More specifically, the students partaking in the Trash Bash will be between the ages of 14 and 18, and they will be actively enrolled in a science course at the high school. The project will reach roughly 400 students during the span of one Fall semester (from August to December) between 10 separate Trash Bash sessions. While volunteers are not needed for these sessions, it will be an option for long-time volunteers of the NBSTCC who want to join in on the action. No training will be necessary for those volunteers because their attendance and participation is completely voluntary and has no relation to the curriculum students' will be taught during their time at the beach. Instead, the program coordinator at the NBSTCC and an intern will facilitate the beach clean-ups and the accompanying teaching sessions. Chaperones and high school teachers will be encouraged to join in with the students.

How

Listed below are the primary SMART objectives of the program:

1. Directly after and at 5 months after the completion of a Trash Bash program, Navarre High School students will be able to identify three ways in which community members can help keep Navarre Beach clear of marine debris and litter.
2. By the completion of a Trash Bash program, Navarre High School students will be able to describe two ways in which conservation organizations identify trends and develop long-term solutions to reduce the impact of marine debris on shared marine environments.
3. By the completion of a Trash Bash program, Navarre High School students will be able to explain three ways in which mitigating marine debris can improve the environmental quality of their community.

In order to meet its objectives and accomplish its goals, the program will be strategically designed, developed, and implemented within a 12-month timeline. The NBSTCC executive director will spend time in the first two months (May and June) designing the program curriculum before spending time in the second two months (July and August) purchasing equipment and supplies while also working with the high school to plan the Trash Bash program days. It is important to note that the director will contact the science coordinator for the school district in order to get permission for the program's implementation and to get into contact with Navarre High School's science teachers. From there, the individual teachers will reserve a program day and take the necessary steps that a field trip requires (such as distributing consent forms and gathering chaperones).

Then, beginning in August, the NBSTCC program coordinator will start the implementation and facilitation of the program with the help of a part-time intern. There will be a total of 10 Trash Bash days from August to December. On any given event day, a school bus will pick up 40 students at 7:30 a.m. from Navarre High School and transport them to the NBSTCC via a 10-minute driving route. The program will last from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and then the participants will be driven back to the school in time for lunch and their afternoon classes. While water will be available at the beach clean-up, students will be strongly encouraged to bring a reusable water bottle to use throughout the morning.

When the students first arrive at Navarre Beach, they will spend the first hour learning about educational topics with the NBSTCC project coordinator and intern. A particular focus will be on how marine debris, such as plastics, get into bodies of water and how their presence can affect ecological functions. “The chemical additives in plastics and other highly processed materials may leach out and impact the chemical composition (and in turn the potential toxicity) of natural water bodies” (Debris Free Oceans, n.d.). Besides these toxic environmental impacts, marine debris can have major impacts regarding economic issues, human health issues, and social impact issues (Debris Free Oceans, n.d.).

Once students have developed a strong understanding of the environmental issue at hand, they will split into pairs and spend an hour walking along the beach collecting debris. After the collection is complete, the remainder of the Trash Bash will be spent categorizing and sorting through the garbage to analyze and log quantity measurements to be sent to research organizations. The program coordinator will then lead a debrief discussion to elaborate on further actions students can take to learn more about or get involved with the initiative and its implications. Thus, this entire process will follow the guidelines for an experiential learning model: experience, process, generalize, and apply (Salazar, 2021). The benefits to using this model will allow the student participants to “experience and process concepts,” “ask and answer questions,” and “apply concepts to new situations” (Salazar, 2021). Once all parts of the program are complete, the students will travel back to the high school.

From December to March, the program coordinator will distribute student post-tests and facilitate teacher interviews to be used as part of the program’s evaluation results. Once enough information is gathered, the coordinator will work in March and April to compile all results and produce a final report of the NBSTCC Trash Bash program. This report will detail any successes or shortcomings of the program with the hope that it can showcase to the students’ teachers, the NBSTCC staff, and the entire beach community what was accomplished and what future alterations are in store.

Below is the timeline table for the Trash Bash program. May is month one, and April is month 12.

Activity Month >	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Design program curriculum	X	X										
Purchase equipment and supplies			X									
Work with the high school to plan the Trash Bash program days			X	X								
Implement Trash Bash semester program				X	X	X	X	X				
Student post-tests and teacher interviews								X	X	X	X	
Produce final report											X	X

Evaluation

With regard to the program's final report, a summative evaluation will be conducted by the program coordinator to gather results on the value, worth, and success of the Trash Bash (Ernst et al., 2009). A pilot test of the data collection methods will be implemented to one group of 40 students in December. Based on the results of this test, any necessary adjustments will be made before initiating evaluations to the remaining participants beginning in January. The specific evaluation design will include posttest-only evaluation for the students, which means that the students will receive a short series of questions based on content from the program around five months after their participation to "determine the audience's current state of knowledge or skill regarding the issue" (Ernst et al., 2009). Additionally, the evaluation design will include responses from post-program interviews with the students' teachers to "fully understand [their] impressions [and] experiences" from the Trash Bash program (Ernst et al., 2009). The information tracked from this process will help to "define and measure results in order to improve [the current program], ensure accountability, and maximize the effects of future efforts (NAAEE, p.23). Thus, the final report will prove to be an integral part of the program's future development for possible expansion or replication.

Logic Model of: NBSTCC Trash Bash Program (program name)

Situation and Context: The Navarre Beach Sea Turtle Conservation Center (NBSTCC) is seeking to gain funding to expand its current Trash Bash program into an environmental education program geared toward Navarre High School students. By focusing on community stewardship and pollution prevention, the program will teach students the importance of playing an active role in society while understanding how the impacts from humans can alter the environment around them.

Inputs	Outputs		Outcomes		
What we invest:	**Activities -- What we do:**	**Participation -- Who we reach:**	**Short term results:**	**Medium term results:**	**Ultimate Impacts:**
— Funding: grants, matches — Staff time: director, coordinator, intern, volunteers — Local partnerships — Materials: buckets, trash bags, gloves, trash pickers, water coolers — Facilities: Conservation Center building, 4.5 miles of Navarre Beach, Boardwalk, Parking Lot — Transportation: busses	— Facilitate 10 Trash Bash programs on Navarre Beach over the span of 5 months for students — Develope a curriculum to teach during the program emphasizing the effects of marine debris on ecological systems — Debris data is shared with conservation partners — Implement multi-month evaluation on students and teachers about the program	— approximately 400 Navarre High School students enrolled in science classes — Other community members: teachers, educators, volunteers, etc. — Parents, friends, and peers of the participating students — Conservation partners: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) & Loggerhead Marinelife Center (LMC)	— Learn about litter and marine debris — Form a sense of civic responsibility and a stewardship ethic — Development of positive attitudes toward the importance of waste control — Understand the importance of properly disposing personal waste — Better understanding for sea turtle habitats and global waste issues	— Increase sustainable observation and thinking skills — Students apply their new knowledge, attitudes, and skills toward the preservation and conservation of the Navarre Beach environment — Share knowledge and emphasize importance of environmental preservation in the community and beyond — Emphasize awareness for environmental efforts around the world regarding marine debris collection and mitigation — Increase observation and reaction skills regarding sea turtle habitats	— Create a more sustainable and clean beach community — Increase environmental citizenship among students, parents, and greater community — National organization partners will be able to identify trends to help develop long-term solutions to reduce the impact of marine debris on the shared marine environment — Provide and maintain a safe habitat for sea turtles

Assumptions

— Teachers would be willing to incorporate the Trash Bash program into their semester plans
— Long-time volunteers would be interested in promoting or attending the program
— Trash and marine debris will be present for the clean-ups

External Factors

— Weather events (storms, hurricanes, natural disasters, etc.)
— Trash and marine debris quantities may fluctuate

Budget & Budget Justification

The NBSTCC's Trash Bash program is expected to have a total budget of $8,631.70. The organization is requesting $5,203.00 from the EPA, and the remaining $3,428.70 will come in the form of matches.

Staff Salaries

Below is a chart detailing a breakdown of the staff salary portions that will be necessary for the completion of the project. For reference, the executive director's typical work week is 30 hours and the program coordinator's typical work week is 15 hours. The NBSTCC will match the total salary charge and fringe for both the executive director and the program coordinator because those two individuals are already employed, and producing this program is included in their job responsibilities. However, the intern will be hired on using the grant funds in order to provide extra assistance with the program implementation from August to December.

Position	Time needed	Salary/year	Salary/month	Total salary charge for project
Executive Director	10% for 2 months 5% for 2 months	$28,800	($2,166.66 x 0.10 x 2) + ($2,166.66 x 0.05 x 2)	$650
Program Coordinator	17% for 5 months 10% for 4 months	$11,600	($1,250 x 0.17 x 5) + ($1,250 x 0.10 x 4)	$1,563
Intern	10 hours/week for 10 weeks	$10/hour	10 x $10 x 10	$1,000
Total Salary				**$3,213**

Position	Total salary charge to the project	Fringe at 25%
Executive Director	$650	$162.5
Program Coordinator	$1,563	$390.75
Intern	$1,000	$250
Total Fringe		**$1,560.75**

Travel

Students will be transported via school bus between Navarre High School and the NBSTCC. With each school bus rental in Santa Rosa County costing $300 and with the need to rent 10 separate times for each of the 10 Trash Bashes, that will be a total of $3,000.

Equipment

Five-gallon plastic buckets with handles and trash pickers will need to be purchased for recurring usage at the Trash Bashes. Because there will be 40 students at each event, they will be sent out in pairs, and each pair will have one bucket and one trash picker. This means that 20 of each item should be purchased. With each bucket costing $5 (Walmart) and each trash picker costing $8 (Amazon), it will come out to a total of $260 for everything. Additionally, Greg Jones Studio will serve as a partner for the NBSTCC and will provide a match for the $250 it is expected to cost to design and print a large banner to be hung for the Trash Bash program. So, the new equipment total comes out to $510.

Supplies

The one-use supplies that will be needed for each Trash Bash will be disposable gloves and trash bags. It is important for all participants to remain safe from all debris touched, and bags will assist in the transportation of garbage from the beach to the dumpster. With each glove box containing 100 pairs and costing $15 (Walmart), it will come out to a total of $120 for eight boxes. With each trash bag box containing 50 bags and costing $10 (Lowes), it will come out to a total of $50 for five boxes. Additionally, Navarre High School will serve as a partner for the NBSTCC and will provide a match for the $100 it is expected to cost to print and disburse student paperwork. The total cost of supplies will be $270.

Other Costs

The only other cost that can be used for this program is a couple of Igloo water cooler dispensers for the students to refill their reusable water bottles during the program. Each cooler costs $25 (Walmart), so the total cost will be $50.

Budget Category	Requested Funds	Matching Resources	Total by Category
Salary	$1,000	$2,213	$3,213
Fringe @ 25%	$250	$554	$804
Travel	$3,000	n/a	$3,000
Equipment	$260	$250	$510
Supplies	$170	$100	$270
Contracts	n/a	n/a	n/a
Other	$50	n/a	$50
Subtotal: Direct Costs	$4,730.00	$3,117.00	$7,847.00
Indirect Cost @ 10%	$473.00	$311.70	$784.70
Total	**$5,203.00**	**$3,428.70**	**$8,631.70**

Key Staff

The NBSTCC enjoys a strong history of cooperative community projects. While the Trash Bash might be the most notable one, many other projects have provided a driving force behind the organization's conservation initiative. For example, current ongoing efforts include the Responsible Pier Initiative, the Borrow Bin Project, Education Presentations, and Partnered Research Projects. Also, the nonprofit currently works with over six partners throughout the community.

The two key staff who have been assigned to the Trash Bash program are longtime employees of the organization. They are highly knowledgeable on informational topics regarding the Trash Bash, and they have had ample experience facilitating the program for organizational volunteers. Below are the qualifications of both the executive director and the program coordinator that make them perfect for the job.

Executive Director

The executive director of the NBSTCC is well equip with communication tools necessary to successfully convince a community partner to jump on board with a program. She networks well and keeps in frequent contact with all organizational stakeholders. As the head staff member and point of contact for the organization, her job focuses heavily on administrative and executive duties including scheduling and calendaring, time management, and staff oversight. Her additional qualifications include a master's degree and 14 years of relevant experience.

Program Coordinator

The program coordinator of the NBSTCC has been actively facilitating the aforementioned programs for the past 4 years. She's able to facilitate all behind-the-scenes efforts while maintaining a seamless experience for participants. Her excellent people skills provide her with the ability to effortlessly divide up instructions and coordinate events in a timely and efficient manner. She is also skilled at managing large groups of students while maintaining attention and fostering engagement. Her additional qualifications include a bachelor's degree and 6 years of relevant experience.

Letters of Commitment

December 8, 2021

Dear EPA Grant Proposal Review Committee,

Navarre High School is proud to participate in the Trash Bash program and to collaborate with the Navarre Beach Sea Turtle Conservation Center (NBSTCC) for the funding opportunity from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Grant Program. Navarre High School proudly provides schooling for nearly 2,400 enrolled students in the area, and we offer a wide variety of science courses ranging from biology to botany to environmental conservation. We would like to make the commitment to work together with the staff at the NBSTCC to establish and implement this environmental education program. We will contribute to the program specifically through the following roles:

- Work with the high school's science teachers to implement a semester plan involving the inclusion of Trash Bash days for each class.
- Facilitate paperwork and forms between teachers, students, and parent or guardians to ensure maximum program attendance is achieved.

Navarre High School is excited and committed to promoting youth development through environmental education and community stewardship programs such as the NBSTCC's Trash Bash. We believe it is increasingly important for students to understand the impact they can have on the natural world around them, and hands-on learning is sure to emphasize this learning experience.

Sincerely,

Kasie Windfelder

Principal

Navarre High School

NAVARRE RAIDERS

December 8, 2021

Dear EPA Grant Proposal Review Committee,

Greg Jones Studio is proud to participate in the “Trash Bash” program and to collaborate with the Navarre Beach Sea Turtle Conservation Center (NBSTCC) for the funding opportunity from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Grant Program. Greg Jones Studio produces custom graphic design work for products such as stickers, bags, wall art, and apparel. We would like to make the commitment to work together with the staff at the NBSTCC to establish and implement this environmental education program. We will contribute to the program specifically through the following roles:

- Work with the NBSTCC to create a custom, unique program logo design.
- Provide a large banner print of the custom design for the NBSTCC to hang up on its building for program references, photo opportunities, and future outreach initiatives.

Greg Jones Studio is excited and committed to promoting youth development through environmental education and community stewardship programs such as the NBSTCC’s Trash Bash. We believe it is increasingly important for individuals to understand the impact they can have on the natural world around them, and hands-on learning is sure to emphasize this learning experience.

Sincerely,

Greg Jones

Owner

Greg Jones Studio

References

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