

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

Armand M. Oppenheimer Environmental Fund

Grant Guidelines

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Eligibility

Projects may be submitted by students, teachers, parents or nonprofit organizations for students in grades 7 through 12 in the towns encompassing Region I of Northwest Connecticut: Canaan, Falls Village, Cornwall, Sharon, Kent, Lakeville and Salisbury. Projects may take place on the school premises, within the curriculum or after school. Off-campus projects such as participating in bird counts, blazing nature trails, monitoring protected areas or other projects may also qualify for awards. Nonprofit organizations may also sponsor youth to carry out projects.

The Foundation does not support organizations which in their constitution, by-laws, or practice, discriminate against a person or group on the basis of age, race, national origin, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation, political affiliation or religious belief.

Awards

Awards will range from \$100 to \$1,000 and may be for an individual or a group.

Deadline

Completed applications must be received at Berkshire Taconic's office by 5 p.m. November 15th. If urgent environmental problems arise during the school year and proposals for remediation are submitted they will be given consideration.

To Apply

Please describe the activity or project and its purposes in no more than two pages and discuss how it will enhance the student's appreciation or understanding of the environment. Applications must be accompanied by a letter from the project leader whether a teacher or someone from the sponsoring nonprofit organization.

Also include a one-page budget detailing the costs of the project and indicate if there are other sources of income to support the project or activity.

Awards of \$100 to \$1,000 for students working with teachers or nonprofit organizations on a wide range of environmental topics in the Northwest Corner

Notification

Applicants will be informed of Berkshire Taconic's decision by January 31st, at the latest

Review Process

All project proposals will be reviewed by the Oppenheimer Environmental Fund Advisory Board together with individuals qualified to evaluate the subject matter. Their recommendations will be reviewed by Berkshire Taconic's board of Directors.

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

800 NORTH MAIN STREET, PO BOX 400, SHEFFIELD, MA 01257-0400

T: 413.229-0370 F: 413.229.0329 programs@berkshiretaconic.org www.berkshiretaconic.org

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Review Criteria

The projects will be reviewed according to the following criteria

- The excellence and quality of the project submitted and its alignment with the Fund's purpose.
- The impact of the project on its participants.
- The ability of the applicant to carry the project out.

Questions

Please contact Maeve O'Dea, program director, at 413-229-0370 or by email at programs@berkshiretaconic.org.

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation builds stronger, more vibrant communities and improves the quality of life for all residents of Berkshire County, MA; Columbia County and northeast Dutchess County, NY; and northwest Litchfield County, CT. Since 1987, we have been an agent for positive change in the region we serve. In education, health care, basic human services, transportation, the arts, youth and senior programs—our grants touch all aspects of life and every person in the Berkshire Taconic region. Each year, we help thousands of donors achieve their philanthropic goals and hundreds of nonprofits carry on their good work. Berkshire Taconic is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization and is proud to serve as steward for this fund.

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Oppenheimer Environmental Fund is to contribute our knowledge and understanding of the environment so that we can cherish and protect our precious historic, aesthetic, agricultural and economic resources.

The Oppenheimer Environmental Fund promotes the greater appreciation and understanding of the environment through supporting projects by young people in Northwest Connecticut. A research paper, a field trip, a study of wild life, a new technique in farming, or any project that advances the Fund's goal may qualify for support. Applicants are encouraged to think of projects in a broad range of disciplines including science, history, humanities or the arts.

The Fund was created by Vicki Oppenheimer, family and friends.

About Armand M. Oppenheimer

In 1969 when Armand Oppenheimer, a resident of Salisbury, CT, became president of the Housatonic Audubon Society, a chapter of National Audubon Society, the chapter faced environmental challenges that threatened the scenic character of the countryside. With the cooperation of the Sharon Audubon staff the chapter launched an educational campaign that led to greater environmental involvement and initiated the Sharon Audubon Festival as an annual celebration of Nature.

Armand, who for 51 years taught at Columbia University, believed that young people who understand our dependence on Nature and our environment grow into active and responsible citizens who cherish the gifts of planet Earth.

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