



Educational Water Resource Funding Program Guidelines

All applicants should review these program guidelines and the additional information below before registering.

The mission of the Educational Water Resource Funding Program is for youth and adults to develop an appreciation for Florida's waters, an understanding of the limited nature of Florida's water and a water ethic that they can foster through their lifetime.

- **Eligibility** – Public, private and charter school teachers and community group leaders within the Suwannee River Water Management District (District) [boundaries](#) are eligible to apply for their class, school or group. A larger student or community reach will receive preference in selection process. Non-profit public charities community groups must provide a copy of their internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)3 status.
- **Selection** – Project proposals will be evaluated and ranked by staff based on thoroughness and clarity of the proposal, ability of the project to provide education and outreach on one or more of the District's core mission areas, number of youth or students impacted, prior project experience with the District and any other project benefits.
- **Funding** – The District will pay the organization or school district as a reimbursement for approved purchases related to the project. The District will pay the invoice via check or ACH transfer to the school district on behalf of the school approved for a grant. It is the responsibility of the teacher/school to coordinate with the school district to have the funds transferred to the school. The District reserves the right to audit the use of the funds to meet the public purpose.

The District has allocated \$20,000 in program funds for the current fiscal year. Project proposals should range from \$2,000 up to \$20,000 in requested funding.

For more information, visit the [Educational Water Resource Funding Program](#) page on the District website at www.MySuwanneeRiver.com, or contact Troy Roberts by emailing Troy.Roberts@SRWMD.org.

Non-qualifying budgetary items, regardless of grant type:

- Storage sheds, carts or display cases
- Capital expenditures
- Computer hardware (e.g., thumb drives, computers, iPads)
- Computer software not exclusively related to water resources education
- Food or beverages
- Cameras
- Graphic design/artwork
- Salaries
- T-shirts
- Video or audio equipment
- Items not related to water resources education
- Water refill stations

EXPECTATIONS & DELIVERABLES OF GRANT RECIPIENTS

Pre and Post Assessment

It is mandatory that you conduct a pre and post knowledge assessment as part of the project completion. Assessments can be completed in a variety of ways but must be documented to know knowledge gained/lost. Your final report must include an overview of the assessment and findings.

Participation Hours

Record all direct student or member participation hours related to the grant for your final report.

Activities and District Resources

Every grant should incorporate activities and methods to provide information learned to reiterate or introduce new concepts into the class experience, expanding the educational value of the grant funding.

Spread the Word

The District requires grantees to inform the entire school or community about the grant and ways students are learning about water resources. This could include: school board meeting, social media post, website announcement, press release, events, etc. A take-home element is also strongly encouraged to inform families about water resources education. The District may visit schools, community groups or project sites during the production period to create feature stories on the progress and stewardship for public dissemination (web, social media, news release, video, etc.).

The District, as a public funding source, reserves the right to share all projects, concepts, artwork, photos, videos and other products of these grants with others who create projects in their own schools or communities. Each grant recipient must maintain school and/or District photo/video release forms for students included in submitted work products.

Teachers or community group leaders should expect to provide the opportunity for principal, teacher, students or group members to provide quotes for describing impact of the grant in the school or community for use in a District news release or other outreach message.

Making Changes

During the grant period, activity or budget items may need to be modified. If modifications are needed, seek permission from the District. All changes must be requested in writing and changes should not be made until approval is given.

Reporting and Documentation

A final report is required upon completion of the project and must include:

1. Description of the activities
2. Dates and locations of any field studies
3. Photographs of students participating in project activities

A photo release is required for each student pictured. The photo release will authorize the District's use of the photo for any purpose, including website, social media and marketing materials.

PROJECT TYPES

- Efficient irrigation management
- Technology to improve water supply
- Water conservation
- Water quality improvement
- Other water quality or water quantity projects