

2009 Grant Awards

The South Country Education Foundation awarded more than \$22,000 to projects in science, reading, art and physical education. A record number of requests were made for special school projects and the SCEF board was forced to leave unfunded many worthwhile and innovative projects. Below are the details on the grants that did earn funding in this competitive grant cycle.

Storytelling in the 21st Century Classroom

Verne Critz Elementary School

Carolyn Conroy-Kelly, Debra Poore

\$456.00

Digital cameras will be a tool to encourage first graders to create stories about their surroundings, peers and families. Students will be trained in the use of the cameras and, with parental permission, will take photographs that apply to particular themes. The applicants indicate that the pictures will be used to enhance the writing experience. The grant will fund the purchase of 5 digital cameras, carrying cases, SD cards and batteries.

Fun with Printing

Brookhaven Elementary School

Michelle Procida

\$2,000.00

Lorena Salcedo-Watson will be an artist in residence at the Brookhaven Elementary School and offer print making instruction to the student body. Students will then create prints using a variety of materials, both traditional and unconventional. The program will conclude with a school-wide art show. The grant money will pay the \$1,500 artist fee and the remainder will be used for the purchase of supplies.

Challenge III Buzzer System

Bellport High School

William R. Corbett, Jr.

\$742

This grant is for the purchase of a tabletop buzzer system for the school's Science Bowl Team. The buzzer system will help simulate competition events and hopefully enhance team performance.

Wii Fitness and Motor Development for Adaptive PE

Bellport Middle School

Beth Clark, Bridget roche

\$1,300.00

This grant is for the purchase of the Nintendo Wii video game system for use by the physical therapist at the Middle School as well as students enrolled in Adaptive Physical Education. The video program will help students develop motor coordination, balance and muscle strength. In addition to the purchase of the Nintendo Wii (\$659.99), the applicant will purchase games and a lockable cart.

Ranger for a Day

Frank P. Long Intermediate School

Nicole May, Rob Keenan, Theresa Turecamo

\$1,209

Fifth grade students in Cluster A will be given a guided tour of Sunken Forest and the museum at Sailor's Haven on Fire Island by Fire Island National Seashore rangers. They will learn about the centuries old forest, endangered species that live on Fire Island and the surrounding waters. The grant will fund two buses to transport 100 teachers and chaperones to the Sayville Ferry Terminal and then pay ferry passage to Fire Island. The program is being considered for all fifth grade students next year.

Book Blogs

Verne W. Critz, Kreamer Street and Brookhaven Elementary Schools

Maryanne Brandi, Fran Dunton, Vicki Pirozzi, Laura Earl, Kathleen Munisteri

\$2,600

Reading and writing skills will be honed by all first graders in the district as they create "Book Blogs." Topics for the blogs will be taken from the district reading series. Students will write their blogs at home using special materials and with input from their parents. The grant will provide for the purchase of writing books with space for illustrations, book bags, card stock, and other supplies. The students will also learn book binding technique and the end products will become part of the classroom library.

Summer Swimming Lessons

Boys & Girls Club of the Bellport Area

Tracie Van Dina

\$1,600.00

The Boys & Girls Club of the Bellport Area will use this grant to take 30 club members for 10 swimming lessons at the Holtsville Pool. The swimming program is offered by the Town of Brookhaven. The Foundation will cover Brookhaven Town recreational fees of \$1,500.00 and \$100 for the purchase of bathing suits for participants who need them.

Peaceful Playgrounds

Verne W. Critz Elementary School

Character Counts Committee

\$3,000

The Character Counts Committee at the Verne W. Critz Elementary School hopes to increase the physical activities of its students on the playground while decreasing student conflicts. They plan to do this with the purchase of a Peaceful Playground Program Kit which includes blueprints for the design of permanent playground activities such as hopscotch, four square and basketball. The nationally-tested program has been proven to reduce playground conflicts through the implementation of organized activities.

Recycle at Frank P. Long Club
Frank P. Long Intermediate School
Peter Cisek, Mike Miles
\$450

Students will learn valuable lessons about the environment through the recycling of plastics, metal cans, glass and paper. The grant will pay for digital and spring scales to be used by students to weigh recyclable products. Students will collect data and use statistical methods to analyze materials and patterns of waste reduction. They will also make posters encouraging students and faculty to participate.

Garden Club
Frank P. Long Intermediate School
Peter Cisek
\$1,200

Students in the Frank P. Long Intermediate School Garden Club plant a Japanese Maple, five flats of flowers and install birdhouses and hanging plants in the school's courtyard. The Garden Club is a project supervised by Peter Cisek with dozens of participants who plant mums in the fall and organize other seasonal displays. The grant also covers the purchase of rakes, work gloves, mulch, potting soil, courtyard ornaments and bird feed.

Woodworkers Club
Frank P. Long Intermediate School
Peter Cisek
\$1,600

Students will use rulers, tools and project design elements to create at least seven woodcraft projects within a 30-week period. There are approximately 125 members of the Woodworkers Club. The club is so popular that meetings are held before school and during lunch period to accommodate the large enrollment. Birdhouses, sitting benches for the courtyard and corner shelves are among the projects. The grant will be used to purchase chop saw and jig saw blades, a table saw, wood and various other supplies.

Circus Arts Program
Frank P Long Intermediate School
Al Nolan
\$1,322.40

This grant will supply materials needed for a Circus Arts Program. The program is designed as a two-week gym program and will reach all students. The needed equipment includes manipulative devil sticks, plastic spinning plates, diabolo balance sticks, juggling scarves and walking stilts. According to the applicant, Circus Art Programs encourage self-confidence, self-discipline, balance, hand-eye, hand-foot coordination, all in a non-competitive environment.

SEQ Water Monitoring Program**Bellport High School****Daniel O'Connor****\$2,125.00**

This grant provides for the purchase of a Dell Vostro laptop computer and two handheld GPS devices and training to be used by members of Students for Environmental Quality collecting data on undocumented waste and sewer run-off. The collected data will be used to identify the sources of troubling run-off and design corrective measures.

Career Day at Brookhaven National Laboratory**Jayne Johnsen-Seeberger, Adrienne Fernandes, Anastasia Munn****Bellport High School****\$2,390.00**

This grant is designed to expose female high school students to careers in science. The grant calls for two field trips. The first is to BNL for their annual High School Career Day, funded by BNL's Women in Science and coordinated by Stony Brook University's Women in Science and Engineering program. The second trip is for students to take part in the BNL Open Space Stewardship Program and participate in stewardship activities. Approximately \$1,700 of the grant is for passenger vans to take 20 students and chaperones to the event. The rest of the grant pays for three teachers chaperones to each event as well as materials, journals, kits and other supplies for participating students.

Dig It: Adventures in Archaeology**Frank P. Long Intermediate School****Aimee Volk, Stephanie Maffei, David Perkins****\$1090.20**

Two fourth grade classes will travel to Atlantis Marine World and discover the science of archaeology during a hands-on interactive program. This trip will enable students to analyze data and form opinions about civilizations and cultures based on this information. The trip will blend educational components of science and social studies. In addition to participating in an archaeological dig, the students will also tour the marine museum. The grant pays for bus transportation and admission.