

Xtra-curricular

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH COUNTRY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Spring 2025

BOOK MARKS



As a 501 (c) (3) the South Country Education Foundation strives to live by its stated mission and guidelines provided by the New York State Attorney General's office. This winter, the board of directors organized a Professional Training Summit with trainer Jeff Stern of Eagle Solutions to make sure we are engaged in Best Practices for an organization such

as ours. We are happy to report that we operate in a financially sound manner and hew to the tenets of our mission.

The results of the summit were good and generated a new enthusiasm on the board to codify our operation for future SCEF leaders. The first task was to outline and detail the duties and execution of our major fund raising event, the summer auction and cocktail. The result is a document that outlines the responsibilities for individual committees down to the details of who is in charge of purchasing napkins and nuts for the beverage bar!

The magic is in the details as SCEF plans on being around for a long time and new leaders will be taking charge. We are also preparing similar guidelines for our other committees such as the Grant Committee, Students 4 Art and the Becker/Gambles Music Fund.

It has been a busy winter!

We are looking forward to seeing you all at our July 12 fund raiser at the glorious lawn of Chantal and Richard Berman, our generous host for more than two decades.

Thank you for your past support of our cause and know that your donations are greatly appreciated and carefully spent, all in the support of public education and making an 'ordinary day and extraordinary day in South Country schools.

Sincerely,
Robin Young Roe
President

PLEASE JOIN US AT OUR ANNUAL COCKTAIL PARTY AND AUCTION

SATURDAY, JULY 12, 2025 • 5 – 7 PM

40 Academy Lane, Bellport

Tickets available at [SCEFonline.org](https://www.scefonline.org)



2025 WINTER GRANT CYCLE AWARDS

In addition to the over \$72,000 awarded in our Fall Grant Cycle, we are awarding over \$19,000 in the Winter Grant Cycle, a total of \$91,000.

Thank you for being such a wonderful, giving community!

1. THE ADVENTURES OF PETER RABBIT

Jaqueline Ward • \$1,614

Verne W Critz Elementary School

72 kindergarten students from Verne Critz Elementary School will attend a field trip to see *The Adventures of Peter Rabbit* at Theater Three in Port Jefferson in Spring of 2025. The performance will enhance students' knowledge of performing arts and literature.

2. OCEANOGRAPHY;

EXPLORE THE WATERS AROUND US

Jennifer Klouse, Kaitlin Fitzgerald

and Ashley Sagistano • \$2,222

Verne W. Critz Elementary School

Oceanography: Explore the Waters Around Us grant will give the 3rd grade students the opportunity to work with a marine biologist to discover the ocean habitats that surround Long Island. The charter boat will take the students to the Fire Island Inlet to participate in multiple activities that support the 3rd grade Science curriculum. Not only does this amazing field trip teach the children about ocean habitats, but they will study the tides, examine plankton tows, discover bottom dredging and so much more!

3. OCEANOGRAPHY;

EXPLORE THE WATERS AROUND US

Melissa Fels and Alissa Connell • \$2,082

Verne W. Critz Elementary School

Oceanography: Explore the Waters Around Us grant will give the 3rd grade students the opportunity to work with a marine biologist to discover the ocean habitats that surround Long Island. The charter boat will take the students to the Fire Island Inlet to participate in multiple activities that support the 3rd grade Science curriculum. Not only does this amazing field trip teach the children about ocean habitats, but they will study the tides, examine plankton tows, discover bottom dredging and so much more!

4. THE BEACH IS THEIR HOME

Heather Nolan, Caroly Kelly and Anthony Melfi

\$1,370

Verne W. Critz Elementary School

1st grade students at Verne Critz will take a field trip to Watch Hill to study the living environment. Students will explore the beach to talk about how sea life survives. They will discuss the environment - including the barrier reef, sea shells, sea turtle nesting areas, and the water itself. Funding is for the cost of busing to the ferry.

5. LONG ISLAND AQUATIC LIFE AND WONDERFUL WETLANDS

Donna Cimino, Christine McMahon • \$2,022

Verne W. Critz Elementary School

Second graders will attend a field trip to the Long Island Aquarium where they will be engaged in interactive displays and programs, get a behind the scene tour, and attend an educational program called *Wonderful Wetlands*. Students will learn the importance of these ecosystems. They will discover how wetlands are nurseries to many species, nesting areas for birds, and a protection for our coastal areas against storm erosion. As they explore the interactive Salt Marsh, students will meet some of the animals who inhabit this most valuable ecosystem.

6. LONG ISLAND AQUATIC LIFE AND WONDERFUL WETLANDS

Jill Derosa, Melissa Satterly and Michelle Dunn

\$2,664

Verne W. Critz Elementary School

Second graders will attend a field trip to the Long Island Aquarium where they will be engaged in interactive displays and programs, get a behind the scene tour, and attend an educational program called *Wonderful Wetlands*. Students will learn the importance of these ecosystems. They will discover how wetlands are nurseries to many species, nesting areas for birds, and a protection for our coastal areas against storm erosion. As they explore the interactive Salt Marsh, students will meet some of the animals who inhabit this most valuable ecosystem.

7. ARMADILLOS AND THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS

Keri Paolillo • \$2,450

Frank P. Long Intermediate School

In this action-packed assembly, award-winning author Elizabeth Shreeve will present the writing, research, and design process for *The Oddball Book of Armadillos* (Norton Young Readers, September 3, 2024). Ranger Eric Powers will share LIVE animals and artifacts, demonstrating the remarkable scope of animal adaptations to rainforest and other ecosystems. Two assemblies will include a multi-media presentation, 75 signed books plus bonus copies for school libraries, classroom activities including the Adaptation Game, and a demonstration with animals from CEED nature center.

8. SLOTHS AND THEIR RAINFOREST FRIENDS

Alicia Ulberg • \$2,200

Frank P. Long Intermediate School

In this action-packed assembly, award-winning author Elizabeth Shreeve will present the writing, research, and design process for her nonfiction book, *The Upside-Down Book of Sloths* (Norton Young Readers, September 10, 2023). Ranger Eric Powers will share LIVE animals and artifacts, demonstrating the amazing biodiversity of rainforest environments. The assemblies will include a multi-media presentation, 50 signed books plus bonus copies for school libraries, teacher guide emphasizing science/language arts connections, and a demonstration with animals from CEED's nature center.

9. MATH MAKERSPACE CLUB SUPPLIES

Lisa Salpietro, Lech Nhotsoubanh

\$1,005

Bellport Middle School

The Math Makerspace Club is dedicated to demonstrating the practical applications of mathematics in everyday life through creative, hands-on projects. With the guidance of advisors Mrs. Salpietro and Mrs. Khnotsobanh, students engage in activities that merge mathematical concepts with craft-making. This year, the incorporation of the Cricut Maker has allowed students to explore measurement, precision, and spatial reasoning while creating personalized items such as mugs and ornaments. To continue fostering student engagement and learning, we are seeking funding to purchase additional supplies for future projects.

10. WOODWORKERS PROGRAM

Peter Cisek

\$1,100

Frank P. Long Intermediate School

Eighty-nine 4th and 5th grade students at FPL will create bird feeders, bird houses, and flower pot holders with the Woodworkers after school program during the 2024-25 school year. The woodworkers club provides the opportunity for students to be creative and innovative with their projects.

We want to thank Board members

Pamela Lerner and Susan Sangiamo

for their years of service to the SCEF and the children of our school district. They have both given of their time, expertise and treasure for nine years.

They will be leaving the Board of Directors but will remain on the Community Advisory Council and have already volunteered their time for this year's auction/party.

Thank you, thank you for all that you have done and will continue to do.



THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 DONORS

If you don't see your name here, we apologize. Please send info to robinyoungroe@aol.com

Adesa Long Island
Adventureland Amusement Park
Lisa Anderson
Robert Apfel
Avino's Italian Table
Baking Coach and Bellport High School
Life Skills Program
Alain and Luisa Baume
Bayport Flower Houses
Jeff and Christine Bellante
Belle Shear - Barbara
Belle Shear - Susan Belcher
Bellport Apothecary
Bellport Arts & Framing Studio
Bellport Country Club
Bellport Fire Department
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Bellport High School Art Department
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Bellport High School c/o Lisa Conk
Bellport High School English Department
Bellport High School ENL Department
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Bellport Middle School, Mrs. Stacey Patanjo's class
Bellport Middle School PTA
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Brookhaven PTA
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OAXACA Red Trunk Project

Students at the Brookhaven Elementary School were enlightened by the contents of a special trunk, a project funded with a \$2,600 grant from the South Country Education Foundation.

Jessica Weinberg, a teacher who applied for the grant, described it as an “immersive field trip” where student learn about the people, traditions and culture of Mexico. The artifacts housed in the trunk are accompanied by interactive and digital learning tools that provide experiences for all learners.

An ethnography describes the artifacts and the trunk includes artifacts and videos in English and Spanish. Examples of folk arts such as arts and crafts, toys, games, dolls, musical instruments, herbs, spices and cooking tools, flag and clothing create a classroom world of another culture.

The SCEF grant paid for the delivery of three trunks which were shared by eight Third Grade classrooms.

The word “red” in the title stands for Respect Every Difference. The trunks are available for the study of other countries around the world.





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EDUCATION FOUNDATION, INC.**
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BELLPORT, NEW YORK 11713-1502

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*The foundation is a non-profit
501(c)3 organization committed
to improving opportunities for all
students in the South Country
School District. Its mission is to
promote educational initiatives
by providing supplemental
financial support for projects
and programs that fall outside
of the District budget.*

HELP US INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN

WWW.SCEFONLINE.ORG

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APPEAL NEWSLETTER

Samantha Fassman, Robin Young Roe & Diane Zanazzi, *Editors*

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