

**MetLife and National 4-H Council Grant Request
Fond du Lac County
Afterschool Youth & Staff Development**

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Boys & Girls Club of Fond du Lac
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Boys & Girls Club of Fond du Lac

Historical Description:

Boys & Girls Club of Fond du Lac and Fond du Lac School District have worked together since 2002 to operate the Afterschool program in the city of Fond du Lac. Throughout that time, Fond du Lac County UW Extension has been a partner. This has included Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program providing nutrition education, Junior Master Gardeners providing gardening education, and 4-H providing project, life skills and leadership education for children in grades K to 5. Staff training, curriculum use, and training on starting 4-H clubs have also been included.

The Afterschool program began at just one site with 75 children and this fall will be at four sites with a projected 325 children. Most of the front line staff (approximately 30 people) are college and high school students with limited training or experience and who tend to stay with the Afterschool program 1-3 years. This results in the need for continual training.

School test scores show a need for improved math and literacy education, which is a primary focus of the Afterschool program. In addition, enrichment activities are an essential component of the program that motivates the children and enables them to be engaged in new and creative ways. One example of this is the 4th and 5th grade students who may participate in the Boys and Girls Club's Torch Club program that focuses on leadership development.

The city of Fond du Lac has just over 8000 school age children, with many youth serving organizations that collaborate in a variety of initiatives. However, there is not a conscious effort to have a united presence advocating for positive youth development programming in out of school time. To best meet the long term needs of children, youth and families we need to move in this direction. This April, the ATODA Council facilitated group dialogues with approximately 30 middle school youth. It provided an overview of the Fond du Lac community from the youth's perspective of what is available to them, what they utilize, what is needed and how they would like agencies in the community to support them. The young people especially appreciated the opportunity to be heard and requested other similar opportunities. On May 22, United Way of Fond du Lac will

release the 2006 Local Indicators For Excellence (L.I.F.E.) for Fond du Lac County, which will include data on children and families. The community forum will be an opportunity for those with similar interests in out of school time youth programming to come together. These may include

- Bravo Children's Theatre
- Windhover Center for the Arts
- Boys and Girls Club
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- Police Department
- 4-H
- Scouts
- Salvation Army
- YMCA
- Recreation Department
- Social Services
- United Youth
- Youth for Christ
- Fond du Lac Public Library
- Volunteer Center of Fond du Lac County
- ATODA Council
- Lutheran Social Services
- Youth
- Parent Teacher Organizations
- Parents as Teachers
- Business Partnership

Training Goals:

- B&GC Afterschool staff will develop skills that meet the needs of children in their program.
- 4th & 5th grade children in the Torch program will develop leadership skills to enable them to plan and carryout, with the assistance of staff, a Lights on Afterschool community awareness event
- Develop a consortium for positive youth development programming in out of school time

Timeline and Resources:

April

B&GC representatives attend the DPI workshop on Afterschool Toolkit, Wausau
B&GC and 4-H representatives attend the Building Partners and Advocates for Afterschool Programs – A Train the Trainer Workshop, Wausau
ATODA Youth Summit

May

LIFE data released at community forum

June 18 to August 10

Weekly sessions for 4th & 5th grade students in the Torch program (estimated 15 youth) led by Retzleff;

Resources: Step Up to Leadership - My Leadership Workbook for Grades 3-5,
Being Your Best Character Building for Kids 7 -10

Week of August 27

25-30 B&GC Afterschool staff will receive training:

- from the Afterschool Toolkit on math, literacy and homework help; and Guiding Principles for Afterschool Programs, led by Logan & Guse
- Essential Elements of 4-H, Experiential Learning, 4-H Afterschool Club Management, led by Retzleff

Resources: Strengthening Positive Youth Development Environments –
Research Based Frameworks for Extension Educators
Heads-on, Hands-on: The Power of Experiential Learning
4-H 101 The Basics of Starting 4-H Clubs
Exploring the Treasures of 4-H

September

Initial meeting of consortium for positive youth development programming in out of school time

Resources: Guiding Principles for Afterschool Programs
A Guide to Successful Public-Private Partnerships for Youth Programs
National Youth Development Learning Network – Youth Development Worker Competencies

October 18

Lights on Afterschool Community Awareness event

October - May

Consortium development, training, and sharing of resources

Evaluation:

- Journals of 4th & 5th grade students in the Torch program on what leadership skills they are learning and how they are applying them to planning the Afterschool Lights on event
- Feedback from Lights on Afterchool attendees as to their increased awareness of out of school time programming and its value
- Observation of B&GC staff and their incorporation of techniques learned at staff trainings
- Number of youth development groups represented at the consortium meetings and the development of consensus on the consortium purpose and direction

Supporting the Wisconsin Afterschool Network Guiding Principles and Four Essential Elements of 4-H:

Both of these concepts will be included in the B&GC Afterschool staff trainings and incorporated into consortium discussions. The essential elements will be the basis for the 4th & 5th grade initiative.

Budget Expenditures and Narrative:

Where	What	Amount
B&GC Afterschool staff training	Field Guides for Experiential Learning, 4-H project curriculum, printing and copies	\$200
4 th & 5 th Grade Torch program	Reflection Journals, printing and copies, certificates, supplies for the Lights on Afterschool event	\$125
Consortium Development	Printing and copies, postage, nametags, folders, flipcharts and program material	\$100
Trainings and meetings	Refreshments	\$75
Total		\$500