



Working Together to Increase the Availability & Quality of Afterschool Opportunities Statewide

May 2008 E-news

May is a great time of year to plant flowers, but the weather is not always cooperative. Why not show the children in your program the ability of plants to grow and flourish in “adverse” conditions? The activity is called Superhero Seeds and can be found on the COSI Columbus website at <http://www.cosi.org/educators/activities/>.

This newsletter is created as a resource for you! If you have suggestions or ideas for the newsletter, please email [Amber](#)!

RESOURCES

Community Afterschool Forums

Billings region: Contact Kristin Lundgren at 406.252.3839 x13 for information on BOOST and their meetings and events.

Have region: Contact [Tim Brurud](#) at the Boys & Girls Club of the Hi-Line for information about the next afterschool meeting.

Helena region: Helena Out of School Time meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Helena Middle School Youth Connections Conference Room 202. Contact [Sandi Smith](#) at OPI for more information.

Kalispell region: Mission Valley Regional After School Program Network has had monthly meetings in Polson. For more information contact [Jenaya Webster](#).

Missoula region: The Youth Development Network is meeting the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 4:15 p.m. Students, educators, and community members are encouraged to get involved! For more information contact [Ellie Greenwood](#) by email or call 406.258.4965.

Other meeting or training dates to share? Email [Amber](#) with the details!

Free Curriculum!

Road of Life: Cancer Prevention for Kids is offering free curriculum to programs that include activities focused on tobacco prevention, health, nutrition, hygiene, physical activity, and even includes self-esteem, time management, science, math, social studies, and language arts. To download your free version of this curriculum to teach children to lead healthy lives please visit <http://www.roadoflife.org/content/view/418/269/>.

Discipline Help

Free online assistance is now available for dealing with over 117 behavioral problems that may happen in your program. Among these issues, fighting, bullying, gossiping, pouting, swearing, and arrogance are included. To view the Discipline Help website created by The MASTER Teacher please visit <http://www.disciplinehelp.com/>.

Funding Tips

The Finance Project has created a series of monthly installments that provide various funding tips. For the month of April, the tip was “Create a Children’s Trust Fund to Dedicate Local Revenue

Sources for Youth Programs." For more information on these funds and to view previous funding tips please visit <http://www.financeproject.org/special/irc/monthlyFundingTips.cfm>.

More Free Curriculum!

The 21st CASP supported by the New Jersey Department of Education offers resources for free downloadable science curriculum that include a Facilitator's Guide to Incorporating Science in Afterschool. Exploring Water Science in Afterschool Curriculum is also included. To access these great resources, please visit <http://www.state.nj.us/education/21cclc/casp/>.

Exploratorium Digital Library

Exploratorium has recently launched a Digital Library for Afterschool. The Exploratorium's purpose is to incorporate STEM learning in Afterschool in a nation where these skills are becoming important in the workforce. To visit the Exploratorium and access the Digital Library please visit <http://www.exploratorium.edu/afterschool/>.

Asteroid Education

The National Optical Astronomy Observatory has created an educational webpage for educators and children for studying asteroids. The hands on activities are focused at middle school and high school aged children and also offers free use of an astronomical telescope to the first 25 teachers that sign up. To view the webpage or find out about the free use of the telescope please visit <http://www.observeasteroids.com>.

FUNDING

21st Century After School Grants

Released: March 3, 2008 (reminder)

The Office of Public Instruction has announced the release of the applications for the 21st Century After School Grants as of March 3. The grants are available to programs and schools. Eligibility requirements ask that a program has 40% of its participants receiving free or reduced price meals. For more information please visit <http://www.opi.mt.gov/21Cent/index.html>.

Montana Board of Crime Control: Afterschool Programs

RFP: October 1, 2007-June 30, 2008 (reminder)

The Montana Board of Crime Control is offering \$125,000 in funds to programs to promote keeping kids safe and reducing risk factors. Existing programs with 501-3C status may apply. For more information please contact Julie Fischer at 406.444.2056 or Glenda Grover at 406.444.2085.

Food Program Reimbursement

Deadline: May 30, 2008 (reminder)

Share Our Strength is accepting applications from sponsors of summer and afterschool meal programs for children that use the USDA-reimbursement. They are hoping to increase involvement in groups like SFSP, NSLP, and CACFP. For more information or to apply please visit http://gabs.strength.org/site/PageServer?pagename=GABS_grants.

Reading Program Grants

Deadline: May 31, 2008 (reminder)

Target Corporation is giving out grants to programs that promote reading skills in children nine and under. For more information on these and grants or to apply please visit <http://sites.target.com/site/en/corporate/page.jsp?contentId=PRD03-003408>.

Neighborhood Builders and Local Heroes

Deadline: June 27, 2008

The Neighborhood Builders program funded by Bank of America will award two \$200,000 grants to nonprofits that promote "vibrant neighborhoods." Group should also include their involvement in education, community development, and human services. Local Heroes will be selected among people that make significant impacts and changes in the community and will be given \$5,000 that can be given to the nonprofit of their choice. For more information or to see if you qualify please visit <http://www.bankofamerica.com/foundation/>.

Mattel Domestic Grantmaking Program

Deadline: July 15, 2008

The Mattel Children's Foundation is awarding grants from \$5,000 to \$25,000 to "youth-serving organizations" that focus on learning, literacy, health, and empowerment of girls up to age 12. For more information or to see if your program qualifies please visit http://www.mattel.com/about_us/philanthropy/ci_mcf_philanthropy_mattelFoundation.asp.

Digital Starlab Giveaway

Latest Reminder

Learning Technologies is giving away a digital starlab worth \$58,000 to a school or youth program. For your chance to win this great prize please visit www.cosmiclesson.com.

OJJDP Grants

Deadline: June 13, 2008

The OJJDP is offering the Tribal Youth Program's Juvenile Accountability Discretionary Grants to recognized tribes to strengthen the tribal juvenile justice system and help groups hold juveniles accountable. Up to \$300,000 in grants will be offered. To see if your group or program qualifies, please visit www.grants.gov or call 1-800-518-4726.

RESEARCH

What are the Threats to Your Program?

The Exchange Every Day has conducted fifteen years of surveys on the threats to various programs. The top three of these threats are shortages of qualified teachers, the state of the economy, and competition from public schools. To view last years poll or voice your opinions in this year's poll please visit <http://www.ccie.com>.

Geographically Challenged Youth

The National Geographic Education Foundation reported in **Education Week** in the May 10, 2006 edition that too many young people "appear in some way unprepared for an increasingly global future." Many could not identify locations (such as the U.K., Egypt, Iraq, or certain states) on maps, land forms, or widely spoken languages. To view the article, please visit www.edweek.org.

Quality Does Matter

A recently published report from the Society for Research in Child Development, entitled After-School Programs and Academics: Implications for Policy, Practice, and Research by Robert Granger, claims that high quality programs result in positive academic, emotional, and social results, while main stream and non-exemplary programs show little change in children's performance. To access the report, please visit http://www.srcd.org/documents/publications/spr/22-2_afterschool_programs.pdf.

TRAINING

Leave No Child Left Inside

Montana Parks and Recreation, Montana FWP, and the National Park Service are holding a summit on September 23, 2008 in Helena on the health and nutrition of children. The summit will focus on bringing in educators, after school programs, recreation programs, and so on. The Keynote Speaker will be Cheryl Charles, Ph.D., president of the Children & Nature Network. For more information on attending please call Ken Soderberg at 444.3701 or email him at ksoderberg@mt.gov.

Healthy Teen Network Conference

The Healthy Teen Network will hold its conference entitled, Speaking Many Languages: Respecting Diversity, Believing in Equity in Albuquerque, New Mexico October 29-November 1, 2008. This is a great training and networking opportunity. For more information, please visit <http://healthyteenconference.org/default.aspx>.

MBI Summer Institute

The Montana Behavioral Initiative will host its 2008 summer institute June 16th-20th in Bozeman, focusing on emphasizing positive behavior and interventions. It will offer training for many skills necessary when dealing with children. For more information on attending please visit <https://toto.msu.montana.edu/cs/mbi/>.

Space Education Workshop

A big thank you to all that made the Space Education Workshop on April 18-20, 2008 in Billings a success!! For more information on next year's workshop or to start your own Galaxy Explorers' Mission Team please visit <http://www.foge.org>.

On-Site Training

The Center for After-School Education offers on-site training kits available in various subject areas, including but not limited to child and youth development, tapping community resources, and English language learning. For more information please visit https://afterschooled.foundationsinc.org/store_fld/Scripts/prodview.asp?idproduct=49 or call 1-888-977-KIDS. Use the code E25M508 to receive a 10% discount on your order.

The Montana Afterschool Network is coordinated by the Montana Child Care Resource & Referral Network with support from the C.S. Mott Foundation, First Interstate Bank Foundation, Homer A. and Mildred S. Scott Foundation, the Steele-Reese Foundation, Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services and the Montana Office of Public Instruction.

Check out afterschool resources at www.mtafterschool.org!