2017 Program Announcement

Texas Space Grant Consortium
K-12 Education Programs
$10,000 Maximum

Proposal Due: April 21, 2017
I Introduction

The Texas Space Grant Consortium has a long history of conducting space related Educational Programs at the K-12 level across the state and the nation. TSGC is currently soliciting proposals that are designed to enhance students understanding of the benefits of space exploration and space based research.

Texas Space Grant Consortium anticipates awarding 1 or 2 new awards per year. The individual award will be up to $10,000 maximum with a period of a maximum of 12 months. Awards are overhead free. Please note the Project ending date will be required to end April 30, 2018 as this is the ending date of the sponsoring grant.

II Purpose

The main objective of Texas Space Grant Consortium K-12 Education Programs is to enhance students and teachers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields and/or provide understanding of the benefits of space exploration and space based research.

TSGC’s K-12 Education Programs goals are:

1. Assist K-12 teachers in exciting their students to learn math and science through space based activities.
2. Increase K-12 educator knowledge in space related fields.
3. Increase K-12 students knowledge in math and science through space related activities.
4. Increase the public’s appreciation for the direct and indirect benefits of NASA sponsored research.
5. Direct programs to areas of the state that have the few space related resources.

NASA Office of Education Institutional Engagement Line of Business (LOB)

NASA Institutional Engagement supports efforts that build and develop capacity of formal and informal institutions for sustained STEM capabilities in topical areas of interest to NASA. This line of business focuses on five primary goals:

Goal 1—Capacity: Support interactions between NASA Centers and educational institutions and organizations to
i. Enhance their competitiveness to perform STEM research and development,
ii. Enable their ability to deliver and participate in NASA-based activities, and
iii. Expand their participation in STEM education reform at the federal, state, and local levels.

Goal 2—Content: Increase the STEM capacity of institutions and organizations to contribute to the NASA mission through research, curriculum development and instruction, delivery of content, and/or enabling capabilities.

Goal 3—Diversity: Promote diversity representation of institutions and organizations affiliated with NASA whether through Institutional Engagement funding or other means of collaboration.

Goal 4—Sustainability: Improve the ability of NASA-supported institutions and organizations to leverage beyond NASA funding to sustain their developed capacity in STEM personnel, programs, and infrastructure.
Goal 5—Network/Community: Facilitate a process where like-minded educational institutions and organizations can utilize the NASA network of grantees, collaborators, and alliances with the intent of building a community of practice to help sustain their STEM capacity.

NASA Office of Education STEM Engagement Line of Business (LOB)

NASA STEM Engagement addresses national needs in STEM education, while also providing exciting and unique opportunities to underrepresented and underserved communities. STEM Engagement activities utilize NASA resources and are based on best practices in motivation, engagement, and learning in formal and informal settings.

STEM Public Education Events foster interactions with learners of all ages to spark an interest in STEM disciplines using NASA-unique materials and resources. These may be part of a larger public event and are often shorter in duration than Experiential Learning Opportunities and STEM Challenges.

STEM Experiential Learning Opportunities enable learners to acquire knowledge, understand what they have learned, and apply that knowledge through inquiry-based and project-based activities. NASA opportunities include participatory activities designed to increase involvement, knowledge, understanding/comprehension, and application of learning in one or more STEM disciplines using our unique resources.

STEM Challenges are creative applications of NASA-related science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and cross-cutting concepts. They challenge existing assumptions and encourage learners to demonstrate their knowledge of STEM subjects while enhancing innovation, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.

NASA Office of Education Educator Professional Development Line of Business (LOB)

Educators play a central role in the achievement of learners. NASA Educator Professional Development provides educators with the knowledge, skills, and ability to deliver unique STEM content to learners who will ensure the economic growth and competitiveness of our nation. Pre-Service Educators have declared an education major or are graduates who have not yet completed training and certification to teach in a formal setting. NASA Educator Professional Development efforts serve the pre-service educator community in two ways:

1. Engages in face-to-face activities at Centers and remote locations, in concert with partners, and helps develop NASA-unique online educator professional development content for the pre-service educator community.
2. Engages with Higher Education institutions to infuse NASA content into teaching materials and curriculums. This provides them with exciting resources and exposes those future educators to NASA content and missions.

In-Service Educators include those currently practicing in a formal school system. NASA Educator Professional Development opportunities for in-service educators are high-quality, sustained, intensive, and classroom-focused to have a positive and lasting impact on classroom instruction and understanding of NASA-related STEM content.

Informal Educators provide organized educational activities outside of the established formal school system. NASA engages informal educators to increase their understanding of NASA-related STEM subjects and motivates them to use NASA materials in their education environments. Our efforts help establish linkages between formal and informal education, and encourage informal educators who teach STEM subjects through exposure to and knowledge of NASA-related content.
Areas of Emphasis

- Diversity and Inclusion:
  Move toward increased participation of MSIs and community colleges in all components of the National Space Grant program. **Work to increase participation and retention of underrepresented groups in STEM disciplines.**

- Authentic, hands-on student experiences in science and engineering disciplines- the incorporation of active participation by students in hands-on learning or practice with experiences rooted in NASA-related, STEM-focused questions and issues; the incorporation of real-life problem-solving and needs as the context for activities.

- Engage middle school teachers in hands-on curriculum enhancement capabilities through exposure to NASA scientific and technical expertise. Capabilities for teachers to provide authentic, hands-on middle school student experiences in science and engineering disciplines.

III Eligibility

Competition is open to individuals qualified to serve as principal investigators at TSGC members in good standing. **Principal investigators must be US citizens.** Proposal submission is limited to one per investigator per year.

In order to satisfy NASA grant matching requirements, the total awarded amount must be matched 1:1 in either in cash, in-kind support, or both, by the proposing institution(s). This 1:1 support must be documented and included in the proposal budget and signed by a cognizant institutional official.

TSGC encourages the participation of PI’s who are women, under-represented minorities, or persons with disabilities.

IV Notice of Intent (Optional)

In order to plan for a timely and efficient review process, a Notice of Intent (NOI) to propose is encouraged. The submission of a NOI is not a commitment to submit a proposal, nor is information contained therein considered binding on the submitter. The NOI must include the following: proposal title, principal investigator, institution, PI email, PI phone number, and a 200-300 word description of the project. NOI’s must be submitted electronically to TSGC at proposals@tsgc.utexas.edu.

V Proposal

Proposals must be single-spaced with type size of at least 11 points and margins of at least one inch on all sides. Each proposal should be stapled in the upper left-hand corner. It should not be bound.

Each proposal must be in the following format:

1. **Cover Page**
   The cover page must include the following items: Project title; project dates of service; PI name and contact information, institutions and signatures; and date of proposal.

2. **Project Description**
A description of the proposed program. This section should include but not be limited to the following. This section is limited to eight pages.

a. How the program addresses one or more of TSGC goals.
b. Goals and objectives of the program.
c. Evaluation plan.
d. Dissemination plan.
e. Projected impact both numerically and depth.
f. Plan for sustainability after the conclusion of TSGC funding.
g. List of team members and their roles and responsibilities.

3 Budget
Attach a budget summary and description page that outlines costs that include: a) personnel salaries b) Fringe. This must be calculated separate from salary and wages, c) domestic travel, and d) direct costs associated with materials and supplies, publication costs, or other direct costs e) Contributions of partners. This section is limited to two pages.

4 Matching Support
The required 1:1 matching support must be documented and included in the proposal budget and signed by a cognizant institutional official.

5 Resume Material
Maximum two page resume of Principal Investigator. The resume should demonstrate the PI’s expertise in conducting the program.

6 Partnerships
Describe the roles and responsibilities of each partner. Also include a letter of commitment and support from each partner. Partners may include but not be limited to K-12 educators, discovery centers, museums, challenger centers, etc.

7 Current and Pending Support
Include an attachment that identifies the current support the investigator: source of support, project title, amount of award, period covered by award, and months or % time committed by the project director during the award period.

8 Additional Information
Additional pertinent documentation of no more than five pages may be included as necessary. Reviewers have the option of not considering this material.

VI Period of Performance

The period of performance of this award may not exceed April 30, 2018

VII Expenses

The following expenses are explicitly allowed and disallowed under this award. All expenses not directly allowed must receive prior approval from the sponsor before they are incurred. Any re-budgeting of funds must receive prior approval of the sponsor.

Allowable Expenses
The following expenses are allowed under the terms of this grant

a. Salary, Wages, and Fringe Benefits for the Principal Investigator, staff, graduate students, and undergraduate students. All persons funded under this grant must be a U.S. Citizen.
b. Tuition costs for graduate students
c. Domestic travel
d. Materials and supplies as defined in the budget description

Unallowable Expenses
The following expenses are not allowed under the terms of this grant
a. Overhead or Indirect Costs
b. No funds are allowed to be disbursed to anyone who is not a U.S. Citizen
c. Equipment – As defined by the State of Texas and the federal government
d. Furniture
e. Building costs/remodeling costs
f. Telephone charges
g. Office Supplies
h. Administrative support
i. Computer use fees
j. Subcontracts
k. Consulting services
l. Charges that fall outside of the approved period of performance of the award

VIII Reporting Requirements
Progress reports must be submitted annually from the start of the award. These reports must contain the following.

1. Description of the program to date.
2. Budgetary information including partnerships.
3. Detailed description of program and budgetary discrepancies from the proposal.
4. Copy of all products produced.
5. Copy of all advertising material produced.

IX Other Requirements

➢ Texas Space Grant Consortium Membership Meeting Attendance
    The investigator is invited to attend and present at the TSGC annual business meetings. These meetings are held in the Fall.

➢ Acknowledgment of support.
    An acknowledgment of TSGC support must appear in any publication of any material based on this project in terms similar to the following: "This material is based in part upon work supported by the Texas Space Grant Consortium."

➢ Site visits.
    TSGC representatives shall have the right to make site visits to review project accomplishments.

➢ Audit and records.
    Financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, and other material pertinent to this grant shall be retained by the grantee for a period of three years following submission of the final project report and shall be made available to TSGC upon request. This material, the organizational prior-approval system, and the internal project audits and subject to review by TSGC officials.
Texas Space Grant Consortium
K-12 Education Program
Proposals Due: April 21, 2017
Expected Announcement of Selections: May 2017
Expected Award Date: June-July 2017

- Payments
  The grantee institution shall receive payments under this grant through that institution's Office of Sponsored Projects. **Invoices must be submitted on a monthly or quarterly basis. Invoices should not span over academic year. Invoices should include a matching funds column.**

- Notification of absence.
  TSGC shall be notified prior to an investigator's absence from their institution for a period of four months or more. Prolonged absences for non-project related purposes are subject to TSGC review.

- Changes in principal investigator.
  If the principal investigator or project director leaves the grantee institution or otherwise relinquishes active direction of the project, the institution must notify TSGC as soon as possible and the award will be terminated. Awards may not be transferred if the PI leaves the grantee institution to another institution that is not an active academic member of the Texas Space Grant Consortium.

- Suspension or termination.
  This grant may be suspended or terminated if the grantees fails to comply with all the terms and conditions of the grant or if the principal investigator leaves the institution.

- Nondiscrimination.
  No person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under this grant on grounds of race, color, national origin, religious affiliation, handicap, or gender.

- Compliance with regulations.
  The investigator must abide by all state and federal regulations related to research.

- Liability.
  TSGC shall not be held liable in the event of damages to persons or property which may occur in the course of activities conducted as a result of this grant.

**X Proposal Review and Evaluation**

This program is designed to provide start up funds for high impact K-12 Education Program activities conducted by our member institutions. All proposals will be evaluated upon the following criteria.

1. Alignment with the NASA Strategic plan
2. Alignment with TSGC objectives and goals
3. Experience of PI in conducting the program
4. Sustainability of the program after the completing of TSGC funding
5. Numbers of people impacted by the program
6. Depth of impact of the program
7. Leveraging of TSGC funds
XI  Proposal Submission and Selection Schedule

Submit 1 proposal electronically via Email Submission and mail 1 hard copy:

Submit 1 proposal via Electronic E-mail Submission  AND  Mail 1 hard copy:

Email Electronic Version
Jurgens@tsgc.utexas.edu

Mail Hard Copy to:
Texas Space Grant Consortium
K-12 Program
3925 W. Braker Lane, Ste 200
Austin, Texas 78759

Submission deadline for electronic copy: by midnight, Central Time, April 21, 2017. Hard copies can be received in the mail the week after deadline.

Inquiries:
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Austin, Texas 78759
512-471-3583
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proposals@tsgc.utexas.edu

Announcement of Selected proposals are expected by May 2017