Why Not Now? Incorporated

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309/243-9268

Tim Kelley
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
700 South 10th Street
Havana, Illinois 62644

August 20, 2005

Reference grant number 05-031W "Interactive/Educational Nature Trail Sign Posts"

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Why Not Now? Incorporated hereby submits our final report and supporting documents and requests reimbursement in the amount of $597.82 per our grant agreement.

Introduction

The mission of Why Not Now? Incorporated is to provide accessible outdoor recreational opportunities for children and adults with disabilities. The purpose of our project was to provide a means to educate our campers about the many indigenous plants and animals of Illinois, many of which are found on our 102 acre campsite in Fulton County near Farmington, Illinois. The construction of signposts will provide an attractive and functional means of mounting educational materials, including posters available through IDNR, which depict native wildlife and fauna.

Materials and methods

All signposts were constructed by experienced woodworkers using premium grade treated lumber, Plexiglas, and composite roofing shingles. The signposts provide ample space to display posters and other educational materials. All labor for the construction of these signposts was donated by two of our volunteers and installed by six other volunteers. Installation consisted of setting the 4 x 4 treated posts approximately 30 inches below grade with 1 ½ inch white rock as a base as well as packed in around the posts on all sides to provide for a secure installation and to allow for drainage of rainwater, thus preventing premature rotting of the wood below grade.

Results

While a bit awkward to handle, the signposts were installed level and plum and should last for many years to come. We are in the process of deciding which posters to place on specific signposts so that we can then initiate a nature trail study activity for our campers. As the photos show, the signposts are quite professional and attractive and will certainly enhance the experience of our campers' educational experiences during their stay with us. The signposts were placed along our accessible trail-way in the timber at our main campsite, at our accessible fishing pier/pavilion activity area, and at our main boat ramp launch area.

Discussion and Summary

Now that our signposts are installed, we will now be able to provide an enhanced nature study activity for our campers, something previously unavailable at our camp. As the

signposts were installed so that persons in wheelchairs can view the easily, we will be able to instruct children and adults in wheelchairs from our accessible trail-way as they access the various educational points along the trail-way. One of the signposts was situated so that we can now construct a pull off platform from the main trail-way, allowing a class of campers to study together in the heart of our native hardwood timber. This project will provide natural studies opportunities for numerous disabled campers for several years to come.

Digital images

Please see the enclosed CD which contains photos of the signposts installed at our camp at various locations.

Expenditures

Our organization expended a total of $760.09 for materials for this project and volunteers provided approximately 72 hours of labor for the construction, delivery, and installation of the signposts. Copies of all receipts for our materials expenditures are attached for your review. The Plexiglas for this project was donated by a local glass contractor.

We have also enclosed our completed Payment Request Certification as required by the terms of this grant agreement.

In closing we would like to thank the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for helping our organization enhance the experience of our disabled campers with their support of this project.

Should you have any questions please contact me at brad.guidi@worldnet.att.net or by telephone at 309-243-9268 or 309-635-6104 (cell phone).

Brad Guidi

Brad Guidi
Chairman of the Board of Directors

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