

1 for All School Initiative Grant Application

Information on applying for a grant

For further information, contact:

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Sr. Vice President and Executive Director

First Amendment Center

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Applications are accepted on a continuing basis throughout the year.

I. Introduction

Many Americans arrive as adults with sparse academic exploration or practical knowledge needed to apply their freedoms of religion, press, speech, assembly and petition.

The 1 for All “Liberty Tree Initiative” funded by a grant from the McCormick Foundation is designed to build awareness of the First Amendment by bringing thought-provoking First Amendment programs and speakers to middle and high schools nationwide, and to college campuses.

II. About 1 for All

I for All is an informal coalition of educators, journalists, librarians, artists and authors with a shared interest in building awareness of the First Amendment through education and information. It was founded in partnership with the American Society of News Editors, with help and support from the Knight Foundation, the McCormick Foundation and the First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University.

I for All’s middle and high school program offers grants of up to \$500 to schools that host an innovative program, tapping school resources and the talents of local experts and educators to illuminate pivotal First Amendment issues. The program is offered nationwide, but special consideration is given to schools in the Chicago-area.

III. About the Grant

- Schools will be selected periodically by a committee composed of leading First Amendment educators, journalists and funding partners.

- Successful applicants will receive a one-time grant no more than \$1,000 to organize an educational program, such as a one-day conference, guest speakers, etc., focused on the importance of the First Amendment.
- Programs can be scheduled for the 2011-2012 academic year.
- Technical assistance will be provided via telephone and e-mail, including support in identifying and securing possible speakers, locating educational material, etc.
- The grant does not provide for payment of administrative fees to the school or school system.
- Gene Policinski, senior vice president and executive director of the First Amendment Center is chair of the middle and high school programs. He can be reached at 615/727-1302, or gpolicinski@fac.org.

IV. Guidelines

- The applicant must be a faculty member with demonstrated support from the building principal or system superintendent/top administrator.
- The proposal must demonstrate, in addition to interest, an ability to organize a First Amendment program designed to educate, illuminate and invigorate students.
- The proposal should demonstrate a willingness to explore additional avenues for promoting First Amendment education through community resources, such as public libraries, nearby colleges or universities, music schools, fine-arts program and the like.
- Where possible, the te proposal should demonstrate an ability to create a presence for First Amendment content on a school Web site..
- Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to include the planting of a Liberty Tree on school grounds as part of their program proposal.
- The grantees will be selected on the basis of specific criteria, including (but not limited to) uniqueness, creativity, potential for continued education, and demonstrated ability to educate on First Amendment issues.
- The grantees will be responsible for a final written and financial report to the program coordinator.
- The grantees agree to be available to respond to any reasonable requests from the Liberty Tree Initiative.

V. Timetable

APPLICATIONS ARE ACCEPTED AND CONSIDERED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

You must indicate the time frame for your program on your application.

Our experience is that specific and identified support from administrators and fellow faculty members closest to you is essential for successful Liberty Tree Initiative events. Though having a single individual responsible for the Liberty Tree program is necessary, the program should not be a one-person initiative.

If the program/project proposal is approved, the Campus Coordinator will notify the applicant. When the applicant has executed the project-funding contract, the project funding will be provided.

VI. Proposal

Please include the following in your proposal:

- An introduction to your school, including why it would be an ideal place for a Liberty Tree Initiative program.
- Information about your interest in hosting and ability to host a First Amendment program. Include important background information regarding your ability to successfully plan, organize, coordinate and pull off a major event like this.
- An explanation of your proposed program or project. Applicants are encouraged to consider an interdisciplinary approach to First Amendment education.
- A proposed budget for the project.
- A brief timetable for the project and its completion.
- A section on how the program/project will be publicized.

VII. Submission Requirements

- Two applications — one hard copy and one electronic — must be submitted to the coordinator Gene Policinski [gpolicinski@fac.org] Please send electronic submissions in Microsoft Word format.

For further information and to submit a proposal, contact:

Gene Policinski

Senior Vice President and Executive Director

First Amendment Center

gpolicinski@fac.org and 615-727-1303

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ATTACH TO PROPOSAL

Applicant Overview

School: _____

Contact Name/Title: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____ Website: _____

Please have your Principal or appropriate administrator also sign this acknowledgment of support of your application.

I support this application for a 1 for All "Liberty Tree Initiative" grant and look forward to hosting an informative, enlightening and innovative First Amendment program at our school.

Principal/administrator: _____

Date

Signature of Applicant: _____

Date

Project Description: Be sure to provide the following:

I. Background: Please describe your school, student population and current and/or past experiences with First Amendment educational programs.

II. Overview: Describe the proposed program - concept, goals and objectives.

III. Timetable

IV. Publicity Plan

V. Proposal for web presence or participation

VI. Evaluation: How will you and evaluate the effectiveness of the program?

VII. Sustainability: Can your school sustain similar First Amendment educational efforts beyond the grant period? If so, how?

VIII. Budget: Your grant request will be limited to \$500. Please attach a program budget and narrative budget justification.

IX. Key Staff Bios: Please include short biographies of key faculty, staff and students who will be involved with the project. Attach resumes and/or curricula vitae, if available

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