

## WHSTEP: Mini-Grant FAQs

### Q: Can all teachers apply for WHSTEP Mini-Grant funds?

A: No. Funds are available only to teachers in our member districts of Bourne, Falmouth, and Mashpee, Massachusetts.

### Q: I would like to partner or consult with a scientist on my project. How can I find a match?

A: WHSTEP can help! We maintain a registry of science outreach volunteers, and have liaisons at each of the local research institutions and agencies.

### Q: How many Mini-Grants are funded each year?

A: The number varies, but *most proposals are funded partially or in full* if they meet the grant criteria spelled out in the cover letter and explained more clearly in the FAQs.

### Q: Can I use WHSTEP Mini-Grant funds to take my students on a whale watch?

A: No. Proposals should demonstrate the capacity to become self-sustaining. One-time, special events may be considered with a description of pre- and post-event curriculum and products.

### Q: Do proposals have to be for science projects only?

A: No. In fact, projects in mathematics and engineering are encouraged!

### Q: What about interdisciplinary projects, for example Language & Arts Science?

A: Fine, provided that math, science and/or engineering is a *strong component* of the proposal.

### Q: Can I use WHSTEP funds to replenish my science kits?

A: No. Funds are intended to create opportunities *not ordinarily* funded by the schools.

### Q: Can I apply for equipment or materials for my classroom?

A: Yes, provided that the materials are an integral part of an instructional plan that uses a new or innovative approach to teaching.

### Q: By "technology" do you mean computers?

A: No. The word "technology," as used in *Woods Hole Science & Technology Education Partnership*, is interpreted by the Partnership to mean engineering and design (i.e. application of the principles of math and science).

### Q: When and how can I submit a mini-grant proposal?

A: Proposals can be submitted any time during the year! Proposals are reviewed twice a year, in November and March.

### Q: How much funding can I expect to receive? How soon are funds available?

A: Up to \$500 per proposal. Consideration is given to one-year renewals. Funds are available right away, following grant approval.

### Q: What if I'm not sure if my idea is okay for a WHSTEP Mini-Grant?

A: By all means, contact us at [whstep-info@whoi.edu](mailto:whstep-info@whoi.edu).

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Mail: Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, 266 Woods Hole Road, Woods Hole, MA 02543, USA.

E-Contact: [info@whoi.edu](mailto:info@whoi.edu); press relations: [media@whoi.edu](mailto:media@whoi.edu), tel. (508) 457-2000

Problems or questions about the site, please contact [webdev@whoi.edu](mailto:webdev@whoi.edu)