

Q:

I need some information on what type of grant I should request. My goal is to begin an after school program for my students. Here are some of the things I would like to accomplish right away:

1) Bring up a satellite weather station for use by all departments. Not only will the science department be able to use this data but the social studies department and math departments can use it as well.

2) I would like to start a radio club and begin teaching students basic electronics.

3) Do some fox hunting.

Initially, I would like to start by setting up the satellite weather station. It would be really neat if we could get a central depository for data so that schools around the country could put together composites of the entire US area. Can you recommend the proper grant to pursue for this purpose?

A:

In your list of projects, the weather station idea would be easy to institute and you can see how many other teachers jump on board with that effort. The equipment would be requested under a Progress grant. What you would expect is the receiver, pre-amp, and NOVA software. You'd be expected to get the WXT0IMG (start out with the free version), build the antenna, and come up with the computer.

Once you get that program going, then think about the fox hunting. That equipment (two of them probably) would be requested under a Progress grant also.

By time you get those parts of your program going, then for the hands on electronics, it would be best to get support from local sources because the supplies are expendable and would need to be replaced each year. You should consider ARRL grants as seed money that will help you get going, but sustained support should be sought from other sources...PTA, Site Councils, or local Ham groups.

The last step (or maybe your first, it depends on your plan) would be an ETP grant for a full up radio station at the school. The ETP grant is a one time opportunity. The Progress grants can happen as your program grows and changes directions.