

## **Integrated Local History Curriculum**

### **Request for 2022 Funding**

**Organization:** Boys & Girls Club of Lead-Deadwood (Unit of Boys & Girls Clubs of the Black Hills, 501(c)3 )

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**Goal:** To dynamically integrate the history of the Lead-Deadwood community into year-round, out of school time educational opportunities provided by the Boys & Girls Club of Lead-Deadwood (BGCLD).

**Audience:** Lead-Deadwood students in grades K-12, enrolled in the BGCLD program – currently more than 250 students.

**Project Duration:** January 1 – December 31, 2022.

**Program Summary:** BGCLD will enhance, expand, and revitalize the integrated history curriculum generously funded by the Historic Preservation Commission in the past. This dynamic program explores the cultural heritage of the Lead-Deadwood community through three lenses: general history, the arts, and science. Students will engage in programs one to two times a week during the school year and summer. The curriculum will take an integrated approach to these subject areas utilizing the proven method of students teaching students, hands-on experiential learning, site visits, field trips and guest speakers. The project includes possible recruitment of a history education major from Black Hills State University to help improve the curriculum and teach lessons. Community partnerships would include: Deadwood History Inc., local museums, the Historic Homestake Opera House, the Sanford Lab, Black Hills State University and other relevant groups.

The 2016 curriculum featured ethnic communities that were pivotal in forming Deadwood in the late 1800s. Our intern quickly found that in order to foster the best understanding and interest in these groups, she had to first teach a significant amount of historical context. This led to lessons on Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty; the Civil War; quests for religious freedom and much more. The result has been the ability of our youth to understand where Deadwood's heyday falls on our nation's historical timeline, and a greater understanding of how communities come to be in general. Specifically, investigations into the Chinese and American Indian contributions to our area were our children's favorite.

In the past we have looked into people key in the establishment of Deadwood in the late 1800s as well as local legends in the Northern Black Hills. We have also looked

into how the rise of Deadwood fits in to the history of our country. We continued to look at the growth of Lead and Deadwood in more recent history through the Homestake mine in Lead and tourism in Deadwood.

We found that while youth have a sound familiarity with Deadwood's Wild West legends, their knowledge of the commercial and social growth of the area is quite limited. Based on these findings and the myriad rich stories left to tell, our 2022 curriculum will continue to explore individual people and the lasting contributions they made to our area. Through their stories, youth will come to better know who built their communities, and how the stories of Lead and Deadwood citizens fit into the larger story of America and the American West.

**Funding:** The Boys & Girls Club of Lead-Deadwood requests \$12,000 to enhance and complete this program. Based on the project's success and impact, BGCLD will seek annual funding to grow and maintain the program.

**Budget:** The budget for this proposal includes three main components, and makes up approximately 5% of the annual budget for the Boys & Girls Club of Lead-Deadwood. It is essential to keep in mind that the cost for a child to attend the Boys & Girls Club is just \$25 per year, and that no child is ever turned away because of its inability to pay.

*Program Equipment/Supplies: \$2,000*

The program equipment and supplies dollars will be used to purchase supplies to create a dynamic, hands-on curriculum. This includes books, basic art supplies for relevant art projects, and other relevant materials specific to this curriculum.

*Field Trip Bussing: \$2,000*

Bussing is a large and unavoidable cost. To make this history real, it is essential for students to visit the sites and places where events occurred and where real artifacts are stored. By visiting these locales, youth will make a meaningful connection with the history of their own communities.

*Staffing/ BHSU Intern: \$8,000*

Having trained and qualified staff to help encourage and teach the members at the Club. Helping the youth grow and become the best that they can be. Staff training is important to ensure they are able to teach, build and inspire the youth. Having someone closer in age to learn from is important for the older members and a college intern is perfect for that. The recruitment of a BHSU intern brings vast and meaningful benefits to this program. Teen and pre-teen youth respond well to college-age mentors. Not only do these mentors make college and the

concept of a degree more attainable for our youth, but also they are essential to employing the strategy of students teaching students.

On behalf of Board of Directors, staff, Club families and members: thank you for considering an investment in protecting our community's most precious resources, our children and our community's future. Together, we can continue to build community and to ensure that our kids have the tools and resources needed to succeed. We invite you to come to the Club to receive a tour of our facility and to experience the impact yourself. For additional information, please feel free to contact us anytime at 605.574.2010.

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Thank you for your kind consideration,

**Boys & Girls Club of Lead-Deadwood**