



Innovation Project Application

Library: Panhandle Public Library Cooperative System

Project Manager: Mary Balint

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Name of Project: Summer Robotics Class

Project Amount requested: The cost of the project is \$10,000 (the PPLCS Board has committed to pay a matching portion of this amount)

Scope of the Project: Students at PPLCS's member libraries will participate in a hands-on robot building course taught by an experienced mechanical engineer (Jason Scott, owner of Scott Innovative Solutions). The grant will fund supplies for 20 participants at eight different library locations: in Calhoun County at the Blountstown, Mossy Pond, Kinard, and Hugh Creek locations, in Jackson County at the Marianna and Graceville locations, and two programs at the Holmes County Public Library in Bonifay. Each class is one hour a day for four days, and on the fifth day students will get to spend an hour in the Mobile Technology Center. The Mobile Technology Center is a trailer equipped with assorted robots, 3D printers, laser engravers, and computers where students can experiment and create in a hands-on learning environment. The target age for students is 10-15 years of age, although those slightly younger or older may be considered depending on class size. At the end of the course students will get to keep the robot they have built.

What need in the library/community will this project address? The U.S. Department of Commerce reports that jobs in the area of science, technology, engineering and math are increasing but the United States is not producing enough qualified graduates to fill them. To fill this need, schools in Calhoun, Holmes, and Jackson County provide STEM content during the school year yet there are limited opportunities for children during the summer months. PPLCS member libraries struggle to find funding for these programs, and their staff lacks experience necessary to teach students themselves.

Resources required: Mr. Scott will provide 160 robot kits and supplies (included in price) to the students. The library will provide meeting room space for the classes as well as space in the parking lot for Mr. Scott to park the Mobile Technology Center. PPLCS and the libraries will create marketing materials to promote the classes in the community.

Activities/Timeline (include estimated completion date): Each location will offer one hour of class instruction for four days and activities in the Mobile Technology Center for one hour on the last day. Classes will take place based on Mr. Scott's availability during PPLCS's 2018 Summer Reading program which takes place in June and July.

How will the library sustain this project? Due to the cost of the project it is not feasible to offer it every year without additional funding from grant sources, donations, etc. PPLCS will explore additional funding opportunities as well as look into presenting the program in the future at fewer locations with smaller class sizes. If there are unused robot kits after the classes end, PPLCS will look into recruiting some of the students to assist staff members in offering the class during the school year, perhaps in conjunction with coding classes and clubs.

Library Director's signature: Mary Balint Date: 10/15/17

 Date: Sept. 20, 17
Signature of agent, office, or board to whom the Director reports

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Approved _____ Not Approved _____

PLAN Executive Director _____