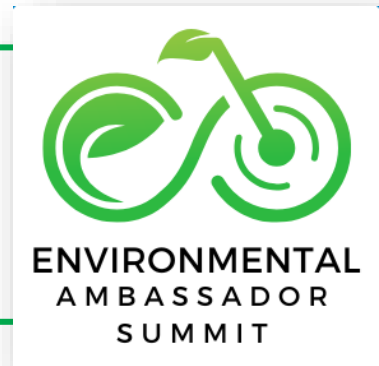


Environmental Ambassador Summit

February 10, 2026



Project Proposal

The mission of Niagara River Greenway is to restore the ecological health of the Niagara River and improve public access for all, while supporting the development of world-renowned scenic, natural, historic, cultural and recreational resources of the Niagara River Corridor.

At the annual Environmental Ambassador Summit students are invited to apply and propose a project in line with the goals of the Niagara River Greenway. One team per high school will be chosen by the school to attend the Summit. Each team will prepare a poster displaying the essence of their proposed project and orally present their proposal to a panel of experts. The expert judges will award a first, second and third place team with funding to complete their projects.

Students in grades 9-12 attending high schools in Erie or Niagara County are eligible to apply. Projects can be on school grounds or within the Niagara River Greenway boundaries seen here: <https://www.niagararivergreenway.com/nrgc-plan>

A complete proposal should include the following items in the order indicated:

1. Application Form
2. Project Proposal Narrative
 - a. Timeline
 - b. Budget Estimate

ALL PROJECT APPLICATIONS & PROPOSALS ARE DUE by JANUARY 13, 2025 (email completed application form and proposal narrative to Michelle Lockett)

If you have any questions or comments, please contact:

Michelle.Lockett@parks.ny.gov or text or call (716)256-0534

1. Application Form

Contact Information

School name:

Faculty Advisor Contact

Adult Name:

Job Title(s):

Email:

Work Number:

Cell Number:

Student Team (team of 3 to 10 people)

Student Name:

Student Grade:

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	

Project Information

Name of Project:

Location of Project (provide address or GPS coordinates, if applicable):

Please check the area(s) below that will be addressed by your project (mark all that apply)

- ☐ Removing or identifying & reporting invasive species
- ☐ Planting native shrubs or trees
- ☐ Planting native pollinator plants
- ☐ Water quality monitoring and / or improvements
- ☐ Environmental awareness or educational messaging (social media, public art, discussion panel, signage, flyers, etc.)
- ☐ Installing park or trail amenities (benches, bike racks, etc.)
- ☐ Pollution / Litter Control
- ☐ Restoring/maintaining trails or walkways
- ☐ Wildlife conservation (bird/bat houses, fishing line bins, habitat restoration)
- ☐ Composting or Rainwater collection
- ☐ Other: _____

2. Project Proposal Narrative Instructions (Total Points = 50)

Please attach a typed project proposal including the information outlined below. Proposals should be no more than 2 pages, with size 10 – 12 pt. font and 1-inch margins. PDF, Word or Google Docs documents will be accepted.

1. Problem (4 points)

- a. Identify the problem or need to be addressed. How did you identify the problem?

2. Design (14 points)

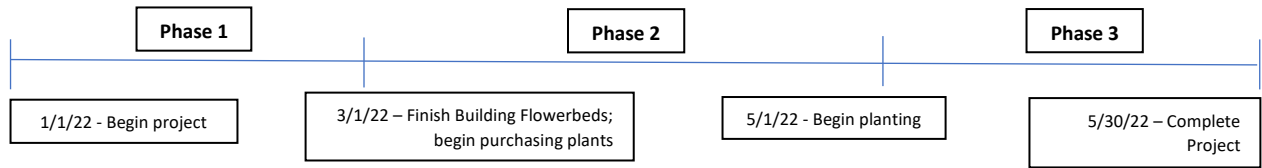
- a. Explain in detail what your project is and what work will be done.
 - i. Identify the project as a new or part of an existing project.
- b. Materials
 - i. What materials will be used?
 - ii. What suppliers will be utilized?
 - iii. How many suppliers did you contact and/or research? (Please list them)
- c. Who is doing the work? Will there be any volunteer groups helping (ex: other school clubs or local community service clubs, like Rotary)?
- d. Did you obtain the proper permissions and/or permits from the project location landowner(s) *(Please be sure to communicate with school facilities, municipalities, or agencies prior to submitting your proposal)?*

3. Timeline (6 points)

- a. Create a visual timeline (see example below) for your project.
 - i. When will the project begin? When will the project finish?

Environmental Ambassador Summit – Project Proposal

- ii. Will there be separate phases or tasks making up the project? If so, how long will each phase/task take?



4. **Budget (10 points)**

- Budgets should include all anticipated expenses for the project.
- Within a maximum budget of **\$1,000**, please create a detailed table of all anticipated expenses and allocate the award money accordingly (See example).
 - If expenses are above \$1,000, please note where the additional funding is coming from.

Example Budget Estimation

Item	Amount	Unit Price	Total Expense
Shovels	3	\$24.99	\$74.97
Gardening gloves	6 packs	\$4.98 / 2-pack	\$29.88
Watering Cans	4	\$7.98	\$31.92
Milkweed plants	10 plants	\$10.00	\$100
Blue Lobelia	8 plants	\$3.50	\$25.50
Compost	15 bags	\$5.00	\$75
Total Allocations			\$337.27

* Budget Estimation and Timeline will not count toward 2-page maximum.

5. **Sustainability (8 points)**

- Specify if the project will need to be maintained after you have implemented it. IF maintenance is needed, how will it be maintained or continued after the funding is used? Please include a maintenance plan and/or schedule.
 - Will future classes/students maintain or continue your project in the future?

6. **Outcomes and Impacts (8 points)**

- What would you like to accomplish with this project?
 - What are the immediate benefits? What will the long-term impacts be?
 - Be sure to include impacts to both the environment and the community.
- Explain how the project will enable you to address the problem or need identified above.

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Poster and Presentation Guidelines

Poster Guidelines (Total points = 25)

At the Environmental Ambassador Summit, teams will be asked to display a poster representing their proposal. These posters are an opportunity to creatively show-off your team's ideas and plans. Posters that do a good job of visually portraying the projects intended outcomes will earn a high score. Posters should be mounted on foam board and be **no larger than 22" by 28"**.

Things to include:

- School Name & Students Names
- Name of Project
- Project Site Address or description of location
- Before images of the project site
- Drawings/sketches/conceptual images of the planned project
- Project Timeline

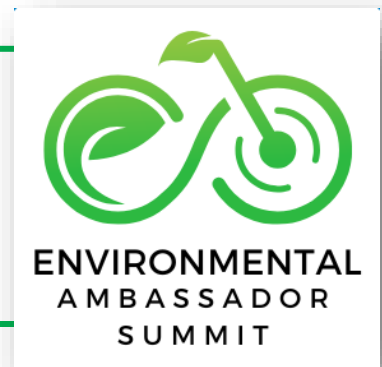
Presentation Guidelines (Total points = 25)

Each team will have approximately 5 minutes to present their project to a panel of judges. Presentations should follow these guidelines:

- Presentations should be made using Microsoft PowerPoint, Google Slides, or other similar slideshow program
 - o Videos within the slide show, music and other props are allowed
- Include school name, student names and project name on title slide
- Focus on bringing added value to the written proposal, not reiterating everything that was already mentioned in the project narrative (include key points from narrative)
 - o Judges will have reviewed written proposal narratives prior to presentations.
- All team members should contribute to the presentation in some manner.
- Slideshows should cover basic details of the project (i.e., location, problem being addressed, project design), as well as an appeal to the judges depicting what makes the project unique and worthy of implementation.

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Scoring

Total possible points for Project Narrative = 50 Points

Total possible points for Project Poster = 25 Points

Total possible points for Oral Presentation = 25 Points

Total possible overall score = 100 Points

The student team with the highest points will win first place, second highest points will win second place and third highest, third place.

1st Place prize = Money to complete project up to \$1,000, a beautiful wood engraved award plaque, individual prizes for each teammate AND bragging rights to the BEST OVERALL project!

2nd Place prize = Money to complete project up to \$1,000, an award certificate, and a pizza party for the team

3rd Place prize = Money to complete project up to \$1,000, an award certificate and a cookie tray for the team