



## Request for Proposals Announcement Seeking: Traditional & Ecological Knowledge Experts

Do you have experience with an Indigenous system of knowledge, traditions or practices known to this place<sup>[2]</sup> within the NWMI territories of the Anishinaabe, Three Fires Confederacy lands? Are you passionate about regenerative ecology? Are you interested in sharing this knowledge with the next generation? Do you know what TEK stands for?

Whether you are an artist or a farmer, a biologist or a linguist, an Ojibwe, Odawa, Bodewadmi, a descendant, or non-tribal, if you answered yes to most of these questions, we'd love to hear from you!

**Proposals Requested By:** January 31, 2023

**Fellowship Period:** Minimum 3-months anytime between January 15 and July 31, 2023

**Compensation:** Fixed fee 1099 vendor. Sliding scale dependent on extent of scope and expertise; minimum \$5,000.

**Interviews and Selection(s):** Made during first quarter of 2023.



**Background:** SEEDS Ecology & Education Centers has been based in Traverse City and working with students of all ages since 1999. Currently hosting 11 EcoSchool sites in six counties, SEEDS EcoSchool programs work directly with over 1000 K12 learners each year. With state funding, we are able to provide high quality afterschool and summer learning available to the whole school.

We seek to invest everything we know how to into our students. On their shoulders is placed infinite potential and also a lot of healing work ahead. They deserve to know more about this place, Ishkaakamikwe, and to actively practice living in harmony.

We are seeking a person or persons experienced in at least one facet of Anishinaabek TEK who will work side by side with students at SEEDS EcoSchool Centers, sharing knowledge, traditions, and practices with student learners. We offer a sliding-scale fellowship stipend, a separate significant supplies budget, possibly workshop space(s) or access to labor support depending on your craft, and an awesome collaborative staff culture.

**Requested Deliverables:** Our request is that you have a passion for place-based knowledge, tradition, or practice, a desire to share your skills and knowledge, and the capacity to reach at least 3 of our sites at least 4 times each (minimum 12 visits) before July 31, 2023. Capacity to visit and teach at more sites for more sessions, including possible field trips, is equally if not more welcome (note the sliding scale stipend). Topics may include, but are definitely not limited to language, crafts, tools, geography, food systems, history, land management - you tell us! This is intended to be an opportunity for you to journey into your chosen field as much as it is a chance to share that experience with students.

It is not required that TEK Fellows have direct teaching experience. Any work directly with SEEDS students will be assisted and supervised by a qualified SEEDS staff member.

### **Entities and Responsibilities:**

#### SEEDS will:

- Provide access to materials, tools, and equipment as is feasible and negotiated.
- Provide student recruitment support and scheduling.
- Promote the Fellow's work through our marketing channels.
- Provide a modest fixed stipend or honorarium, minimum \$5000, to be negotiated with the Fellow prior to starting the project.

#### TEK Fellow will:

1. Utilize their own specialized tools and work spaces as preferred.
2. Collaborate with SEEDS staff toward the development of age appropriate lesson plans.
3. Provide at least 2 hours of learning-time content for a minimum of 3 of our sites at least 4 times each (minimum 12 visits) before July 31, 2023.
4. Participate in an end-of-term evaluation and reflection of the experience.

**Qualifications:** Individuals, small businesses, and cooperative partners are welcome to apply. The Fellow must demonstrate mastery in indigenous knowledge, tradition, or practice gained through personal, professional, and/or education experience. The Fellow must exhibit consistent, high quality communication skills.

**Preference:** Preference will be given to hands-on or experiential activity ideas. Tribal members, descendants, and non-tribal members are all encouraged to apply.

**Proposal Components:** Submit all proposal documents to [sehlers@ecoseeds.org](mailto:sehlers@ecoseeds.org) as attachments. Include "TEK" in the subject line.

Strong proposals will clearly describe your focus, demonstrated proficiency, and ideas for youth engagement activities. Please include a BRIEF narrative with the following components:

- Description of proposed activities and timeframes including any initial ideas you envision
- Your approach to safety - physical, spiritual, and emotional
- Supplies or Equipment required or desired to be utilized
- Workspace, storage, and/or other required or desired spaces to be utilized

- Please also consider including:
  - Any additional experience you wish to communicate
  - Interest in and experience with teaching, training, and/or public engagement
  - Preferred age group for student engagement, if any
  - Insights and/or questions
  - Two references speaking to work quality and professionalism

**Proposal Evaluation:** Proposals will be evaluated based on the following considerations,

- Demonstrated relevant experience and skills
- Alignment with SEEDS mission and teaching goals

Position dates may be flexible but ideally initiated by early spring of 2023.

**Questions?** Contact Sandy Ehlers [sehlers@ecoseeds.org](mailto:sehlers@ecoseeds.org) or (231)632-2626



*Above left:* SEEDS EcoCorps crew members learn about and implement a three sisters planting at the SEEDS Farm at Historic Barns Park.

*Above right:* SEEDS EcoSchool students learn about medicine wheels through an art project.