

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Great Alaska Council, Boy Scouts of America****Federal Tax ID: 920016314****Project Title:****Project Type: New Construction and Land Acquisition**

# Great Alaska Council, Boy Scouts of America - Outdoor Experience Project

**State Funding Requested: \$120,000**  
One-Time Need**House District: 17 / 1****Brief Project Description:**

\$120,000 towards the completion of Project Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience (Project COPE). A combination low/high elements course designed to build self esteem and improve team building and creative problem solving in today's youth

**Funding Plan:**

|                               |             |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Project Cost:           | \$247,500   |
| Funding Already Secured:      | (\$127,500) |
| FY2012 State Funding Request: | (\$120,000) |
| Project Deficit:              | \$0         |

*Funding Details:**2010 \$5,000 Order of the Arrow, general costs**2011 \$55,000 Climbing tower labor match**2011 \$7,500 Great Alaska Council, equipment match**2011 \$5,000 Board of Directors match***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The Great Alaska Council, Boy Scouts of America requests \$120,000 towards the completion of Project Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience (Project COPE). The funding will provide a climbing tower as the final segment to a combination low/high elements course, designed to build self esteem and improve team building and creative problem solving in today's youth. The course provides an experience incorporating communication and cooperation with decision making and conflict resolution, fostering a commitment to common objectives within an environment that encourages risk-taking and change.

Funding by the state of Alaska includes \$110,000 for building supplies and labor and an additional \$10,000 for the equipment safety system. Building supplies for all other low and high elements of Project Cope will be funded through partnerships with local business and service organizations. Total funds provided by these clubs will be \$55,000. Additionally the Boy Scouts have received \$5,000 from the youth organization, Order of the Arrow and a match of \$55,000 to complete the labor requirements for all other elements. All final project equipment will be funded directly through the Great Alaska Council, Boy Scouts of America to include harnesses, helmets, gloves, and rope, totaling \$7,500.

**\$120,000  
Approved**

Current interest for Project COPE comes from local groups, including Jr. ROTC and the Alaska Military Youth Academy. In the Fairbanks community, non-Scouting groups have found this opportunity to be an excellent tool for developing both team effort and individual achievement for both youth and adults. Community partnerships are an expected dividend for the Great Alaska Council as well, providing the income to support full maintenance of the course. This addition to the Great Alaska Council, Boy Scouts of America program will provide an exciting outdoor activity designed to meet the needs of today's youth who seek greater physical and mental challenges.

#### Project Described Further:

Project Cope comprises a series of outdoor challenges, beginning with basic group initiative games and progressing to more complicated activities. Some of these events involve a group effort, whereas others test individual skills and agility. Participants climb, swing, balance, and jump, as well as think through solutions to a variety of challenges. After several activities, a reflection is accomplished through nondirective questioning that encourages participants to analyze how they did as a group and as individuals, how they could do better in future endeavors including life skills, and how the learning applies to school, jobs, and their future. The standards of Project COPE are designed to meet the safety needs of its patrons and the course is inspected bi-annually by national inspectors. Safety is our highest consideration, and we will use trained facilitators, state-of-the-art equipment, and a double belay system on the climbing tower.

#### Justification:

Both youth and adult groups currently seek options for team and skill building. According to the work of Aram Attarian, Ph.D. at North Carolina State University, companies and institutions have used outdoor experiential and adventure education methods for self-discovery and leadership training for decades. The usefulness of this course extends to adventure-based counseling and rehabilitation strategies for people with disabilities, alternative high schools, and corporate events. We will also be meeting the needs of today's employers by providing a program that prepares youth for today's competitive team environment, as well as giving them the confidence to apply for and execute leadership positions. The proposed course includes specific pieces targeting the separate challenges of women and men.

Most participants find they can do much more than they initially thought possible. The underlying goals are both team and individual oriented promoting, both personal growth and team work.

The Great Alaska Council provides development programs to youth and young adults, to include those registered in Scouting and those from other youth organizations throughout Alaska. Adult volunteers benefit as well, as they are provided comprehensive training throughout their tenure and develop as leaders in our communities and job fields.

Your investment in youth development programs such as Project COPE will provide the support and opportunities youth need to empower themselves. Our community is a direct beneficiary when youth build skills and competencies that allow them to function and contribute in their daily lives.

#### **Project Timeline:**

July 2011 - July 2012

#### **Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

Great Alaska Council, Boy Scouts of America

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority?  Yes  No

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| <i>For use by Co-chair Staff Only:</i> |
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