



Young Explorer Guidelines

In an exciting venture to promote technology and early learning, Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) and IBM Corporation's KidSmart Early Learning Program are partnering for the fifth annual offering of the Young Explorer computer systems. Thanks to this partnership, 20 Young Explorer computer systems will be awarded to local organizations who want to give young children a jumpstart on education and technology.

Young Explorer computer systems are designed to enhance children's learning through technology. Support is available to train staff and teachers on how to integrate this new technology into their curriculum and reap the full benefits with the children and parents. For more information on the Young Explorer systems visit www.kidsmartearlylearning.org.

THE AWARD

I. THROUGH THIS EXCITING PARTNERSHIP WITH IBM, SMIF WILL:

- A. Distribute 20 Young Explorer systems to organizations within SMIF's 20 county region.
- B. Provide training on the Young Explorer Computer system in partnership with IBM.
- C. Have Young Explorers available for pick up on **November 9, 2010** at the Training/Celebration Event.
- D. Provide public announcements highlighting the project on behalf of the recipient. Other recognition events may also be planned.

II. EACH GRANTEE IS EXPECTED TO:

- A. Participate in a training session and celebration scheduled for **November 9, 2010** and to be trained on how to use the Young Explorer system (curriculum to trouble shooting).
- B. Pick up the Young Explorer systems (warehoused in Owatonna) at the training celebration on **November 9, 2010** and install at your facility.
- C. Integrate the Young Explorer system into the classroom and curriculum
- D. Host a parent/guardian event announcing the Young Explorer system at the agency/site (strongly encouraged but not mandatory).
- E. Participate in planned public announcements and recognition events highlighting the project.
- F. Seek ongoing local media coverage and visibility for their program and sponsor (i.e. article in newsletter or on website).
- G. Complete a report on implementation progress and outcomes by **June 1, 2011**.

III. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- A. Applicants must be a tax-exempt nonprofit, a local unit of government, or a public school district serving SMIF's [20-county region](#).
- B. An organization is eligible to apply for more than one Young Explorer System; however, preference will be given to those sites meeting the stated criteria that do not currently have a system.

IV. PROJECTS WHICH EXHIBIT THE FOLLOWING DESIRED CHARACTERISTICS WILL BE GIVEN PREFERENCE:

- A. Use of the Young Explorer system that includes parent/caregiver involvement
- B. Use of Young Explorers by children ages 3-7
- C. Ability to integrate the Young Explorer into the classroom or site
- D. Ability to demonstrate the outcomes to be measured to determine the impact of the Young Explorer on learning
- E. Targeting populations that may not have access to technology through any other avenue in their community
- F. Easily accessible to children and parents/caregivers in the program

APPLICATION PROCESS

- A. It is important that you carefully read and follow the application instructions. If any part of the application is not clearly understood, please contact Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation for clarification.
- B. The Young Explorer Application is available for download at www.smifoundation.org and can be completed and submitted electronically (preferred method).
- C. The application must be typed.
- D. Applications are due by **October 1, 2010**.

For more information please contact:

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Submit your application to:

jenniferh@smifoundation.org

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation focuses on workforce readiness and entrepreneurial activity to make a difference in the lives of children and families. To learn more about SMIF programs, visit www.smifoundation.org.

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