

Example solicitation letter for financial support



Date

Sponsor
Address
City, State zip

Dear Board of Directors:

We just completed another successful season of **Science on Ice** field trips, thanks to the support by **Sponsor**. We hosted 280 5th and 6th grade students from area schools from around the region. Schools that attended this year include: Russell, Lena Whitmore from Moscow; Franklin, Jefferson and Sunnyside from Pullman, Genesee, Idaho and for the first time Colton, Washington. We have hosted 908 students since the program's inception four years ago.

To continue to bring these students to Palouse Ice Rink for this field trip we need funds to pay for the program, upgrade equipment, and provide bus transportation. Continued tight school budgets have forced many School Districts to reduce or suspend all field trips and to reduce bus expenses for anything beyond transportation to and from school. For some of the students this was their only field trip all year. Therefore, I am writing to you to consider donating again to the **Science on Ice** program which is under the Palouse Ice Rink Association (a 501 (3c)) organization.

Science on Ice was started in the 2007-08 winter season. For a number of years, we had wanted a way to bring students to the ice rink to learn about the physics of ice and to try ice skating. This program accomplishes both goals. Our desire was to meet state standards for a rigorous curriculum for both the science and skating (physical education) portions.

We first wanted to have students investigate water changing phases from liquid to solid and making a smooth surface. We use the molecular movement of water as a gas, a liquid and a solid using dye and aerosols to demonstrate phase changes. Newton's second law of motion ($\text{force} = \text{mass} \times \text{acceleration}$) was a perfect principle to teach on a smooth surface like an ice rink. Aligning with our desire for hands-on activities in which the students can participate, we developed sling shots for shooting various weight hockey pucks across the ice to develop the concepts of mass, force, and acceleration. Finally we demonstrate rotating objects and their angular momentum with a stand-on turntable, having students spin with their arms out, then tucking their arms in and watching them increase their angular speed. This is then demonstrated by our professional skating instructor doing spins out on the ice.

All of the students are provided ice skates and skating lessons. We developed a simplified skating curriculum that is age appropriate. The students are divided into two groups (non skaters and skaters). The non-skaters learn the proper way to fall, marching, swizzles and

snowplow stop, while the skaters learn one foot glide, snowplow, hockey stops, forward crossovers, and two foot spins.

The entire field trip takes about 1 hr and 50 min. Six to eight volunteers are needed to assist in set-up, helping students during science activities, and during the skating lessons during each session. We are fortunate to have 2 sets of volunteers who alternate weeks.

The field trip still costs \$200 this year to pay for the ice time, skate rentals and lead instructors (science and skating). Ice time rental is expected to increase again next year to \$240. We have numerous dedicated volunteers who help which do keep our costs minimal.

We hope to continue this successful program this coming season with the goal of offering this field trip to upper elementary students in Moscow, Pullman, and surrounding rural schools. To make this possible we are seeking a large donation to be able to pay for the following:

- cost of the field trip (\$220 for ice rental, skate rental and lead instructors)
- bus transportation (Moscow schools \$180/trip, Pullman schools \$245/trip; other schools vary)
- upgrade some of the items we use in demonstration including new projector screen, designing and fabricating a large skate blade demo, and a few smaller additional items

I have attached a thank note from one student that we have received this year.

We are hoping **Sponsor** would consider a donation of \$5,000 for continuing this exciting program. Thank you for your consideration. If you have additional questions please contact me at **email** or **phone**.

Sincerely,

Director

Director's Name

Science on Ice, Director
Palouse Ice Rink Association

Mailing address:

Science on Ice
Address
City, State zip