

Grant funding will aide youth conservation education

PIERRE, S.D. – Learning about the outdoors and conservation are important experiences for youth. To help make that happen, a fund established in honor of a family that is well-known to the outdoor community will begin awarding grants this fall.

The **Tony and Dar Dean Outdoor Education Fund** was established in memory of outdoor broadcaster and writer Tony Dean, who died in 2008, and in honor of his wife Dar Dean, an outdoor enthusiast who has a strong commitment to enhancing outdoor education opportunities.

Working in cooperation with the **South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation**, the **Tony and Dar Dean Outdoor Education Fund** will provide small grant funding for projects associated with youth conservation education in South Dakota.

These small grants are intended to provide resources and support to individuals and organizations desiring to provide quality educational outdoor experiences and are eligible to be used in a variety of ways, including, but not limited to: funding travel for students or groups to educational events; providing supplies and materials to promote outdoor knowledge and skills; creating new activities and events that increase outdoor knowledge and participation among South Dakota families and youth.

The window for accepting proposals will run from Aug. 15-Oct. 15, 2011. Grant Projects will be funded for a minimum of \$500 to a maximum of \$1500. A total of \$3000 is available to applicants for calendar year 2011. In calendar year 2012, a total of \$4000 will be available in two application windows.

All applications for the **Tony and Dar Dean Outdoor Education Fund** small grants will only be taken electronically/on-line using the application form provided. The Summary of the small grants program and the application form can be found at www.TonyDean.com and on the South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation web site at www.parkswildlifefoundation.org.

For related questions, please call John Cooper at 605-222-7582 or Wayne Winter at 605-773-4503.

The group working on this effort plan to build the fund so a larger number of grants can be awarded in the future. For information on making tax-deductible contributions to the Tony and Dar Dean Outdoor Education Fund, visit www.parkswildlifefoundation.org