

TRIUMPH GULF COAST, INC. PRE-APPLICATION FORM

Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. (“Triumph Gulf Coast”) has created a pre-application process to provide initial consideration of potential ideas for projects or programs that may seek an award of funding. Applicants are required to participate in the pre-application process. Notwithstanding the response from Triumph Gulf Coast on the pre-application form, an Applicant may still elect to submit an Application.

APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Name of Individual/Entity/Organization: E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center (Nokuse Education, Inc.) 501(c)(3)

Brief Description of Background of Individual/Entity/Organization: Has provided FREE environmental education to local school districts and the public for 9 years. School districts from Walton, Bay, Washington, Holmes, and Okaloosa County consider the Biophilia Center an extension of their science classrooms. The EOWBC is also at the forefront for eco-tourism in the counties mentioned with growth in outreach and events.

Contact Information:

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Names of co-applicants, partners or other entities, organizations that will have a role in the proposed project or program: _____

Westonwood Ranch, 501(c)(3) Alaqua Animal Refuge, 501(c)(3)

REQUIRED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In a maximum of three (3) pages, please describe the proposed project or program, including (i) the amount of funds being sought from Triumph Gulf Coast; (ii) the amount and identity of other sources of funds for the proposed project or program; (iii) the location of the project or program; (iv) summary description of the proposed program, including how the program will be transformational and promote economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties, and (v) a summary timeline for the proposed project or program.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This pre-application process will **not** result in an award of funding by Triumph Gulf Coast. Rather, this process is designed to facilitate submission of ideas for potential projects or programs before the Applicant expends time and/or resources to complete a full Application. All Applicants for funding are required to complete an Application, which will be scored, and then considered for award in the discretion of Triumph Gulf Coast Board.

Camp Longleaf Grant Proposal
The E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center
(Nokuse Education, Inc. – 501(c)(3))
November 14, 2017

The E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center, located on Highway 20 in Freeport, FL, is seeking a grant in the amount of \$600,000 from Triumph Gulf Coast for a portion of the construction and first-year operating costs of Camp Longleaf, the first and only overnight environmental education camp facility in Walton County.

The objectives of Camp Longleaf are to attract eco-tourism visitors to Walton County, to provide an additional revenue source for the Biophilia Center, and to further the nonprofit's mission of providing environmental education with a concentration on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) subjects. Camp Longleaf will be able to accommodate 4,000 to 5,000 campers on an annual basis when fully utilized and will create six full-time jobs, two part-time jobs, and twenty seasonal summer jobs, as well as fifteen to twenty jobs during the construction phase of the project.

The Walton County Board of County Commissioners and the Walton County TRIUMPH Committee awarded this proposal an "A" rating during the pre-application review process on November 1st.

Background

The Biophilia Center is in its ninth year of providing FREE environmental education to Walton, Okaloosa, Bay, Holmes, and Washington County students with a concentration in STEM subjects. The surrounding five local school districts consider the Biophilia Center to be an extension of their classroom, as we are their science education project-based learning facility – the place where schooling becomes applicable. Each year, the Biophilia Center educates over 6,000 students in a five-county area and averages more than 100 students every school day.

Students who visit the Biophilia Center learn about the natural environment through interpretive exhibits as well as an extensive trail system through natural areas on Nokuse Plantation. The Biophilia Center's curriculum coincides with Florida's education standards. While promoting STEM subjects, students are provided opportunities for inquiry, investigation and innovation by gaining a better understanding and knowledge of their natural surroundings.

Program Description

Camp Longleaf will be a destination point to draw visitors through eco-tourism and environmental education opportunities. Planned programming includes summer camps, collegiate and high-school internships, weekend team-building retreats for businesses, facility rentals, and the Naturalist Outdoors program, which offers K-12 schools from areas outside of the five surrounding counties the opportunity to participate in the Biophilia Center's programs during the school year.

The Camp Longleaf facility will be composed of ten 400-square foot cabins and a 3,500-square foot common area with restrooms and a kitchen. Each cabin will be joined by a raised boardwalk with a central fire pit feature. Each cabin will house twelve campers each, with a total of 120 potential campers

participating during each weeklong summer camp session. When fully utilized, Camp Longleaf will be able to accommodate 4,000 to 5,000 campers annually.

The Biophilia Center has created over 700 pages of science curriculum for local school districts, which will be adapted for use in Camp Longleaf’s weeklong summer camp programs. Campers will gain valuable educational experience through utilization of the Biophilia Center’s existing campus, including the museum exhibits, trails, gardens, gopher tortoise enclosures, birds of prey, and bobcats. The Biophilia Center has already hired a Camp Director and a Camp Operations Manager for Camp Longleaf, and plans to hire four more full-time positions, two part-time cooks, and twenty seasonal positions each summer once the facility has been constructed. An estimated fifteen to twenty positions will be required for the construction phase of the project.

Camp Longleaf has partnered with Westonwood Ranch and Alaqua Animal Refuge to offer Walton County a strong basis of local nonprofits that are making this county a powerhouse of charitable growth and economic prosperity. Alaqua Animal Refuge plans to utilize the Camp Longleaf facility for their visitors and provide Camp Longleaf campers instruction during a half-day field trip at the animal refuge during each camp session. Westonwood Ranch will be using Camp Longleaf as a training location for their clients to gain real-life job experience by performing grounds maintenance and janitorial duties. The E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center is continuously seeking further opportunities for synergistic partnerships with other nonprofits and local businesses.

The Camp Longleaf facility will be located in Freeport, Florida on parcel number 20-1S-18-14000-012-0000 just west of the Biophilia Center on Highway 20. The 1.66 acre development has already been approved through the Walton County Planning Department with the issuance of Development Order No. 17-00100129.

Budget

Total estimated cost for the construction of the facility and first year operations is \$1,200,000, as itemized in the chart on the right. The project already has financial backing from two separate sources. The Dugas Family Foundation has committed \$300,000 for the project, of which \$40,000 has already been paid out for the engineering, surveying, and architectural work. The Stella Davis Trust has also committed \$300,000 for the project.

Engineering, Surveying, and Architectural Work	\$ 60,000.00
Sitework and Construction Costs (10 cabins, boardwalk, and common area)	\$ 990,000.00
Infirmery and Snack Shack Construction Costs	\$ 26,000.00
Website	\$ 7,500.00
Initial Food and Supplies	\$ 30,000.00
First-year Salaries (2 positions that have already been hired)	\$ 86,500.00
TOTAL	\$ 1,200,000.00
Funding Pledged by Donors	\$ 600,000.00
PROPOSAL REQUEST	\$ 600,000.00

Timeline

The Biophilia Center plans to break ground on the construction of the Camp Longleaf facility on December 1, 2017. Construction is expected to be completed by September 2018, allowing for Camp Longleaf facility use for Alaqua guests, Westonwood trainees, and Natural Outdoors program students through the Fall, Winter, and Spring seasons of 2018-2019, followed by our first summer camp sessions beginning in May of 2019.

Goals and Objectives

As the first and only overnight environmental education camp facility in Walton County, a primary objective of Camp Longleaf is to attract eco-tourists to our area through the unique environmental opportunities afforded by the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center and Nokuse Plantation Nature Preserve.

Another objective of the Camp Longleaf facility and program is to generate revenue to fund existing and new environmental education programs, including the creation of twenty-eight local jobs. The income generated by Camp Longleaf will contribute to the self-sufficiency of the Biophilia Center. As a 501(c)(3), the Biophilia Center relies on donations, memberships, grants, event income, and sponsorships for its survival. Camp Longleaf will add a source of earned revenue through summer camp programs, facility rentals, etc.

Finally, Camp Longleaf provides another way for the Biophilia Center to further its mission of providing environmental education with a concentration on STEM subjects. Our goal is to encourage each new generation to be good stewards of our lands and waters and promote future careers in science, education, and environmental studies.

Conclusion

Camp Longleaf is a project that meets many of the Triumph Gulf Coast priorities for economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement, including preparing students for careers in education and STEM disciplines, benefitting the environment, creating net-new jobs, aligning with other similar programs across the regions for greater impact, and leveraging funding from other private entity sources. Camp Longleaf will help to achieve the goals found on the Walton County seal of *Pride, Preservation and Conservation*. Camp Longleaf will have a transformational effect on Walton County by creating a unique asset in the region. The Camp Longleaf facility and programs will draw eco-tourism visitors and provide economic and educational benefits to our area, including the creation of new jobs and the continued enhancement of science education for our local students.

The Camp Longleaf project already has significant financial backing from local donors and partnerships with respected local nonprofits. The E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center has successfully hosted summer day camps and Naturalist Outdoors programs in the past. Funding for the Camp Longleaf project will allow the Biophilia Center to expand its outreach and mission by drawing eco-tourism visitors from across the Southeast to Walton County.