



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For further information: Arleen Kreusch, 716-879-4438

Onondaga Lake Partnership announces 2007 mini-grants program

Syracuse, N.Y. – The Onondaga Lake Partnership (OLP) is accepting proposals for their second round of grant funding under their 2007 Public Education and Outreach Mini-Grants Program. Applications from eligible organizations within the Onondaga Lake watershed must be postmarked by July 1, 2007.

With a maximum of \$5,000 available per grant, the purpose of the program is to fund multiple locally-based projects designed to increase the knowledge and involvement of the public in Onondaga Lake and its watershed and strengthen the link between communities and the Partnership.

Organizations eligible to apply include: Indian Nations or their designated organization, local government or public agencies, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations and associations.

“The OLP continues to encourage and support community involvement and stewardship that helps ensure the long-term health of Onondaga Lake and its watershed,” said Lt. Col. John S. Hurley, chair of the OLP Executive Committee and Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District. “This program has awarded over \$129,000 to 23 different organizations over the years. Together we are making progress in revitalizing Onondaga Lake.”

To date, three programs have received 2007 grant funding including Centers for Nature Education’s Enviromails monthly mailing, an after school science program sponsored by the Dunbar Association and expansion of a stream monitoring and education program through the Liverpool School District. Additional Mini-Grant projects include: Cornell Cooperative Extension’s Rain Garden demonstration project at the Zen Center of Syracuse; the Nine Mile Creek Conservation Council’s “Nine Mile Creek Watershed Day”; Onondaga Yacht Club’s promotion of boating on Onondaga Lake; and multiple projects by the Izaak Walton League and Project Watershed. The following organizations received Mini-Grant awards in 2006: Atlantic States Legal Foundation; Centers for Nature Education; Dunbar Association, Inc.; Huntington Family Centers; Liverpool Central – Elementary Science Center; “Onondaga Creek Kids” through the Westcott Community Center; the Wildfowlers Association of Central New York; and the Roxboro Middle School “New Yorkers”.

Award decisions will be made by October 1, 2007. Additional information and application forms for the Onondaga Lake Partnership's Mini-Grants program may be obtained on the OLP website, www.onlakepartners.org, or by contacting Mr. Robert Griffiths of the Onondaga Environmental Institute at 315-472-2150 x 24 or non1@verizon.net.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), an OLP member organization, provides the funding for the Mini-Grant Program through a grant to the Onondaga Environmental Institute.

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