

## NSEF Miller Shift Master Grants

Deadline : April 30 2020 at 11:59 PM EDT (Midnight) - CLOSED

### Applicant Information

**Name:** Megan Thomas  
**Email:** megan\_thomas@nobl.k12.in.us  
**App ID:** 02448103  
**Status:** Awarded  
**Cycle:** Fall 2019  
**Last Modified:** Nov 13 2019 14:28 EST by adriann\_young@nobl.k12.in.us  
**App Submitted:** Oct 30 2019 21:57 EDT by megan\_thomas@nobl.k12.in.us  
**App Created:** Oct 29 2019 14:43 EDT by megan\_thomas@nobl.k12.in.us  
**Last IP Address:** 10.189.245.4

### Identifying Information

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**Main Contact Name:** Megan Thomas  
**E-mail:** megan\_thomas@nobl.k12.in.us  
**Phone Number:** 317-770-2080  
**Address:**

19000 Cumberland Road Noblesville, IN 46060

### Additional Applicant(s):

This request is a 4th grade student-led project. The project leaders are Mia Teachnor, Maia Blower and Elise Beckner. Mrs. Thomas, WRE social worker, is our project sponsor.

### School(s):

White River Elementary

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## Grant Summary

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**Grant Title:** Operation Snow Fun

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**Grade Level(s) Impacted:** 3rd-5th grade

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**Project State Date:** 11/25/2019

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**Project End Date (if known):** 03/06/2020

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**Approximate Number of Students Impacted:** 300

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**Dollar Amount Requested:** 1500

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**Will the proposed request be a one time project or can you use materials to impact future students?** Multiple year use

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**Please give a 2-3 sentence description of your grant proposal (purpose is for quick summary and/or media publications):**

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Do you ever wish you could play outside when it is snowing but you can't because it is cold, and you don't have snow gear to keep you warm? Operation Snow Fun is here to help! Students at White River Elementary School will have the opportunity to check out snow gear during their recess time to help keep them warm, and to allow them the opportunity to play in the snow instead of just sitting and watching the beautiful ice crystals melt away.

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## Project Details

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### Project Description

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**Describe your proposal in 500 words or less:**

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Hi! We are Mia Teachnor, Maia Blower and Elise Beckner! We are fourth grade students at White River Elementary School. Last year in third grade, we had a lot of snow, but we couldn't play in the snow during recess because not every student had snow gear and our caring principal, Ms. V didn't want anyone to feel left out. This made us feel pretty sad, but we came together to come up with a solution! We wrote Ms. V a letter asking her to change her mind about the snow rules for three reasons. The first reason was because when we go outside we have to sit there and watch the beautiful ice crystals melt away. The second reason was because the older we get the blacktop seems to get more and more crowded and that makes us more prone to injuries. We know that Ms. V doesn't want us to get hurt! The third reason is a lot of kids don't get to play in the snow at home and at school, which makes them miss part of their winter fun. Our letter also proposed safety rules to Ms. V. The proposed rules are 1. No throwing snow. 2. No kicking snow. 3. No going too far from school in the snow. 4. No making snowballs. 5. Zero snow should be in the air. We think these rules will keep students safe and allow them to enjoy playing in the snow. With Ms. V's permission, we created a survey for students to fill out so we could know how many sets of snow gear we would need to buy! Our survey asked students if they had access to a warm snow coat, warm snow pants, hat and gloves and snow boots. Our results revealed that most students need snow pants, a warm coat and snow boots. With the help of our school social worker, Mrs. Thomas, we have already started collecting snow gear items! We currently have 42 donated coats, 20 donated hats, 15 donated gloves, 5 scarves and 2 earmuffs. Unfortunately, we do not have any snow boots and we only have one pair of snow pants. NSEF, we need your help! Our goal is to purchase at least five sets of complete snow gear (warm coat, snow pants and winter boots) in sizes medium, large and extra-large. Students who do not have these items would then have the opportunity to check-out the snow gear sets during their designated winter fun recess time! We know this may seem like a lot of money, but this project would make a lot of students very happy!

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### Timeline

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**Attach a document that explains the timeline of your project.**

Operation Snow Fun Timeline 19-20.docx

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### Evaluation of Success

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**Please describe your plan to evaluate success of this project:**

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We will evaluate the success of this project by creating a pre and post survey. We will ask 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students and teachers to complete the survey before they get to play in the snow at recess and when the snow has melted. The survey will measure student attitudes toward school, recess and playing in the snow. With the help of Mrs. Thomas, we will look at student attendance rates from previous school years and compare them to the attendance rate for this school year. We will also ask teachers to monitor classroom behavior during the winter months. We will compare behavior on days when students played outside in the snow to days when students did not play in the snow. Additionally, we will assess the condition of the snow gear to see if the items we purchased were adequate quality to sustain the project for the 2020 - 2021 school year.

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## Tell Your Story

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**What is the plan to market and share the story of your project to our community? Please remember to include NSEF recognition in your plan.**

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We began working on this project last school year, and in our opinion, we have become pretty good at marketing strategies. We have shared information about Operation Snow Fun in our school newsletter. We have created multiple videos, posters and announcements to share with the whole school, which we LOVE to do! We even convinced our teacher, Mrs. Gunning, to switch our scheduled classroom announcements from December to October so that we could start collecting items for our project before the snow arrives! Our ultimate goal is to visit a local news station to share our idea! We have also been brainstorming ideas with Mrs. Thomas about different funding opportunities, like writing a Donors Choose grant for hats and gloves and asking local churches to participate in the snow gear donation drive to help us with any additional needs. If NSEF decides to grant our request, we would make sure to recognize NSEF by writing thank you notes, posting pictures of students playing in the snow and frequently shouting out to @NobEdFoundation on Twitter, and we would create a fun video thanking NSEF for the whole school to watch. Most importantly, we would invite you to play in the snow with us and afterwards we can enjoy hot chocolate and doughnuts together!

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## Sustainability

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**How will this project be sustainable for future use?**

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Indiana weather can be unpredictable! While we hope that it snows every day, we know that there will be days when there is no snow to play in, which will save on the wear and tear of the snow gear. Our check-out system will help us keep track of the items so that they stay at school. We will also have an Operation Snow Fun leadership club. Club leaders will collect and wash the items in our school washing machine, which will allow us to make sure the items are clean and ready to use! Winter is a short period of time, so the snow gear items should last several years. Since we are fourth graders, we are so excited to launch this program and to enjoy playing in the snow during recess in fifth grade too, but if we are being honest, we are a little jealous that this year's third graders will get to enjoy playing in the snow for three years! We will allow third graders to be members of the Operation Snow Club so that we can mentor them, and they can keep the project going when we transition to middle school!

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**If your project requires use of school property or staff, please explain the steps you plan to take to get appropriate permissions.**

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We have already completed many steps and convinced Ms. V! We still need to share our project idea with our recess aides and with support staff as they help transition students from lunch to recess. We also need to share our project with our school maintenance staff so that we can make sure the playground is prepared and safe for us to play on!

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## Expected Outcomes

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**What are the expected educational outcomes of this project?**

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We expect to see a decrease in student boredom during recess, which will help students feel energized and be more focused in the classroom. In fact, we learned from Mrs. Thomas that there are numerous scientific studies that have found that being outdoors for 20 minutes or more gives children a mental edge, not just a physical one. We also expect to see an increase in student attendance as we believe that students won't want to miss out on playing in the snow during recess! We also believe that going outside to play in the snow will decrease student exposure to germs that are hiding inside and increase our exposure to Vitamin D, which will help us stay healthier. We expect all of these factors to help improve student academic achievement.

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### Budget & Vendor Selection

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#### Budget

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**Please attach your proposed budget. A template example can be found on the NSEF website at [www.noblesvilleschools.org/foundation](http://www.noblesvilleschools.org/foundation) in the NSEF Miller Shift Grants section:**

Operation Snow Fun Budget 2019.xlsx

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#### Vendor Selection

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**Please list the vendor(s) you will be using to purchase any items for your project. NSEF and Noblesville Schools encourage use of vendors from our preferred vendor list, but this is not required. If using a vendor not from our list, please mark that below. A list of preferred vendors is located at [www.noblesvilleschools.org/foundation](http://www.noblesvilleschools.org/foundation) in the NSEF Miller Grants section:**

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Due to the nature of this request, we would like to order the snow gear sets and boots from Amazon.

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### Department of Learning Alignment

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#### Engage, Inspire, Empower

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**Your grant proposal aligns best with which of the following Noblesville Schools educational pillars? More than one can apply.**

Learning Centered Culture~Meaningful Learning Experiences~Purposeful Assessment and Reflection

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**Describe the educational impact of your project and explain how it aligns with the choices above:**

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Throughout this process, we have learned a lot about equality, empathy, advocacy and leadership. We hope that our efforts help others understand that playing in the snow can be something that we take for granted. There are many students who do not have adequate snow gear to keep them warm in the winter. There are also students who live in apartment complexes and homes without lawns. Some of our students haven't always lived in Indiana and snow is new to them. These life experiences may make it difficult for them to ever play in the snow. This project helped us learn about others and we believe that others, including adults, have learned from us. We also learned the importance of learning from others through assessment and reflection. We created multiple surveys to assess student needs and obtain student opinion. We also learned about the importance of advocacy and leadership. We learned that is important to believe that you can make a difference in the lives of others, and to not give up on your hopes and dreams. We hope that our project will create a meaningful learning experience for students at White River Elementary as this program will be unique to our school. We hope that other students will become excited about our program and they'll be inspired to come up with a project too! We also hope to one day share the steps we took to bring Operation Snow Fun to life with other schools so that they can play in the snow during recess too!

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### **Review and Submit**

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#### **Conclusion**

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**Would you be willing to volunteer for NSEF in the future?**      Yes

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**Please attach any other documents of interest:**

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**Is there anything else you think we should know?**

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We sincerely want to thank you for taking the time to review and consider funding for our project. We are very passionate about this project and we cannot wait to hear your feedback about our idea! Please help us make sure that WRE students have Snow Fun this winter during recess!

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