

Business briefs

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Volunteer Kansas accepting applications for \$500 seed grants

WICHITA – For an eighth consecutive year, Volunteer Kansas is offering organizations in Kansas the opportunity to apply for \$500 grants to support service projects that will engage volunteers.

Ten grants will be awarded in May for use before Dec. 31.

Organizations interested in applying should email the following information to contact@volunteerkansas.org by April 30:

1. The name of the organization along with its address, website, and phone number; your name, title, email, and phone number.
2. A paragraph about the organization.
3. One to three paragraphs explaining the project you wish to fund, how volunteers will participate, and who the project will benefit.
4. A budget detailing how the \$500 will be used.

Projects chosen for grants require listing as volunteer opportunities on www.volunteerkansas.org. Projects must utilize at least 20 volunteers. Winners are required to post project photos/videos to the Volunteer Kansas Facebook and/or Twitter pages with #comeandgiveit, #volunteerkansas.

Last year's projects ranged from painting to trail building, and included building raised gardens, constructing outdoor play spaces and assembling summer reading backpacks.

The Volunteer Kansas vision is to move Kansas from the rank of seventh in the nation for volunteerism to number one.

Workforce Center Youth Employment workshops underway

WICHITA – The Wichita Workforce Center, 2021 N. Amidon Suite 1100, is offering a series of workshops for youth as part of its Youth Employment Project 2018.

The workshop curriculum is designed to teach business etiquette, customer service, money handling and address the unspoken rules of the workplace.

Young adults will earn a badge for each workshop they complete and a Certificate after completing the series of three workshops (Workplace Etiquette, Financial Literacy and Keys to Employment).

Each workshop will be a one-day session, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The workshops are open to all applicants, 14 and older, though YEP applicants must be at least age 16 by June 1 to participate in workplace experiences.

Registration is required. Youth should go to <http://www.KANSASWORKS.com> and register with a PLUS account (no cost) before the workshops.

Workshop dates include: May 24, 30, 31 and June 5, 6, 12, 14

Also, young adults who attend the YEP workshop will be eligible to participate in two YEP job fairs, on May 25 and June 8. Employers from the community looking to hire for summer jobs will attend and some will conduct interviews on the spot.

Registration open for residential “camps” at FHSU

HAYS – The Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science Summer Academy at Fort Hays State University will offer five residential, four-day camps in 2018 focused on education, chemistry, computer science, geosciences, mathematics and biology.

Led by expert FHSU faculty in each field, the camps are designed for students who will be freshmen or sophomores during the 2018-19 academic year.

Students do not have to be interested in KAMS to participate.

Camps, listed by date, include:

June 3-7: VEX Robotics and Engineering Design. Learn and engineer the VEX Robotics System, one of the world’s most renowned systems for competition and education.

June 10-14: The Art of the Matter. Designed for individuals interested in art and nanoscience, students will be given the opportunity to develop original art to bring alive the atoms, molecules and nanoscale structures that make up all matter.

June 10-14: Windmills and Gases and Coal: Oh My! As wind farms change skylines and gas production remains one of the top areas of trade, new energy generation is consistently at the forefront of many scientific studies. Here, campers will have the opportunity to expand their knowledge and explore the science of energy. Field exploration includes visiting sites of fossil fuel production, a site for renewable energy resources and a Kansas wind farm.

June 17-21: Adventures in a Virtual World. Using mobile devices, students will trek through many different types of realities and have the opportunity to create their own augmented-reality application for a mobile device.

June 24-28: Gamers Unite! Participants will learn some of the tricks and trades of the game development. Students will learn how to design, code, test and deploy three-dimensional games using Unity, a popular cross-platform game engine along with learning the fundamentals of C#, a programming language used in Unity.

Each camp is limited to 30 students and costs \$100, which includes room and board, supplies and a T-shirt. Priority is on a first-come, first-served basis. The priority registration deadline is April 1, with final by May 1.

For more information or to download the registration form, visit

www.fhsu.edu/kams/Summer-Camps/.

USDA seeks grant applicants to increase broadband in unserved rural areas

WASHINGTON – The USDA is accepting applications for grants to fund broadband infrastructure projects in unserved rural communities.

Applications will be accepted through May 14 for the Community Connect program.

Grants from \$100,000 to \$3 million are available to state and local governments, federally-recognized tribes, nonprofits and for-profit corporations.

Applicants must be able to provide a 15 percent match on the desired grant amount.

The funds must be used to provide broadband service at a minimum rate-of-data transmission of 25 megabits downstream and 3 megabits upstream, which is the speed benchmark that the Federal Communications Commission has officially adopted for broadband connectivity.

Awardees must use USDA funding to offer free broadband service to all critical community facilities in their proposed service areas for two years and provide a community center with free broadband service for two years.

For more details on this grant opportunity, see page 11494 of the March 15 Federal Register.

For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov.

Applications open for \$2 billion federal Rural Broadband Auction

WASHINGTON – The Federal Communications Commission is now accepting applications from broadband providers of all kinds to participate in this summer's Connect America Fund Phase II reverse auction.

Providers can apply at auctions.fcc.gov. The application deadline is March 30.

The auction will provide up to \$1.98 billion over the next decade to help build out high-speed Internet access for up to 1 million homes and small businesses in rural areas across the country that lack service.

“This is a unique opportunity for broadband providers to expand their service,” said FCC Chairman Ajit Pai. “More important, this is a unique opportunity to bring digital opportunity to parts of rural America that have been bypassed by the broadband revolution. So I hope that all eligible providers will give this opportunity a hard look and choose to participate.”

The auction will provide opportunities for new and existing providers using a variety of technologies to compete for support, including phone companies, fixed wireless providers, satellite providers, cable companies, and rural electric utilities.

The auction is scheduled to begin on July 24.

A list of eligible counties by state can be found at www.fcc.gov/file/13816/download, while a map of eligible areas is at www.fcc.gov/maps/caf2-auction-final-areas

The list of Kansas counties in The News coverage area with areas eligible for support from the auction, along with the number of homes and businesses in each, includes: Barber, 27; Barton, 687; Comanche, 3; Edwards, 50; Ellis, 28; Ellsworth, 33; Finney, 12; Harper, 516; Harvey, 478; Kingman, 985; Kiowa, 41; Lane, 1; Marion, 48; McPherson, 73; Meade, 8; Pawnee, 124; Pratt, 55; Reno, 1283; Rice, 258; Seward, 5; Stafford, 235; Wichita, 28.

For more information on the Connect America Fund Phase II auction, visit <https://www.fcc.gov/connect-america-fund-phase-ii-auction>.



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