

An Opportunity to Leverage Our Dollars

Grant Type: Dollar

Grant Amount: \$25,000

Organization: Kohaw Foundation, Inc.



What was the objective of your grant or initiative?

To complete the benefactor's dream of creating a Native American village to be enjoyed by youths attending Camp Simpson in southern Oklahoma. The camp originally opened as a Boy Scouts facility before becoming available for Girl Scouts and as a local destination for many youth groups to enjoy.

What was your approach?

We understand that cultural contacts can be a great asset to the initiatives and desires of our foundation and that, by reaching out to like-minded organizations, our monies can make a greater difference. We discovered this idea at a workshop at last year's Exponent Philanthropy fall conference.

Consequently, we contacted the Chickasaw Nation Division of Youth Services in Ada, Oklahoma, and met with a proposal to leverage our small monies with their deep pockets. The total needed to complete the village is \$191,000. We committed to \$25,000 this year if they would fund the difference and use their knowledge of Native American culture to authenticate the project as closely as possible.

What were the outsized results?

The village was started 3 years ago and supervised by Boy Scout leaders of Native American descent. Authenticity of work completed was of utmost importance to our foundation's benefactor, who was of Native

American descent himself. The progress of a completed village has been slow due to the costs involved and our small budget.

Final thoughts?

This proposal was well received by the youth services director, and he is writing a request that will have to follow their government's process for acceptance or rejection.

It's important to note that we're working with an American Indian Nation whose own government is pouring millions of dollars back into projects that will help our youths.

The completed project will help educate youths about American history in an environment that promotes three principles that were our foundation creator's main concern for today's youths: morals, manners, and good citizenship.

