

GENERAL

MA2-53

April 23, 1973

Dear Miss Weyman:

The President was deeply pleased to learn about the outstanding efforts of the young members of the Zellenople Chapter of GRIP. It is good to know that young people are concerned about our environment, and are taking positive steps to improve their communities.

Because of his strong desire to encourage efforts of this kind, the President initiated his Environmental Merit Awards Program which honors outstanding achievement in protecting our natural environment. He has asked me to send you the attached information so that the members of GRIP may be cited for their fine work. The attached applications, together with a list of all those who should receive the award should be sent to Mrs. Dorothy Goodknight, PEMAP, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C. 20460. If you are planning an awards ceremony, it will be helpful if you indicate when it is scheduled to take place.

With the President's best wishes,

Sincerely,

Roland L. Elliott
Deputy Special Assistant
to the President

Miss Sue Weyman
Route 1, Box 226-A
Zellenople, Pennsylvania 16063

Enclosure: Package from EPA

RLE:EPA:KJ:blh

Group for Recycling in Penna.

RECEIVED

APR 24 1973

CENTRAL FILES



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

April 18, 1973

OFFICE OF THE
ADMINISTRATOR

MEMORANDUM FOR: MICHAEL B. SMITH
Staff Assistant

FROM: ANDREA E. PALEOLOGOS 
Staff Assistant to the Administrator

SUBJECT: Group for Recycling in Pennsylvania

Michael, first of all, I'm sorry for the delay on this. We have to do some thorough checking and have just now come to a final decision.

The consensus is that GRIP is highly deserving of some official recognition. The only caveat we have on a Presidential letter of commendation would be the effect it might have on some of the other excellent groups in the Pittsburgh area.

So, we feel that a PEMAP (President's Environmental Merit Awards Program) excellence award to each of the students is the best solution. Enclosed is material on the PEMAP program including award application forms. We shall need a list of the students to receive the awards and would like to have the date they would like them presented, if they can give one. This information should then be sent to Mrs. Dorothy Goodknight, PEMAP, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D. C. 20460. Dorothy will handle it from there and make sure that they are well taken care of.

Hope this helps. Let me know if we can be of further assistance.

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

Anoneu

REFERRAL

To: Office of The Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D. C. 20460

Date: March 15, 1973

ACTION REQUESTED

- ☐ Draft reply for:
☒ President's signature.
☐ Undersigned's signature.
- ☐ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- ☐ Direct reply.
☐ Furnish information copy.
- ☐ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
☐ Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- ☐ For your information.
- ☒ For comment.

NOTE

Prompt action is essential.

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

Would a Presidential letter of commendation be appropriate for the organization (GRIP) mentioned in attached letter?

Description:

☒ Letter: _____ Telegram: _____ Other: _____

To: The President

From: Sue Weyman, Zelienople, Pa/ 16063

Date: Feb. 18, 1973

Subject:

Requests Presidential commendation for efforts of environmental organization, Group for Recycling in Pennsylvania.

By direction of the President:


Michael R. Smith
Staff Assistant

(Copy to remain with correspondence)

23
Encls
EH

Req. Recognition

R.D. #1 Box 226-A
Zelienople, Pennsylvania 16063
February 18, 1973

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President,

A state environmental organization, Group for Recycling in Pennsylvania, (GRIP), was created in the fall of 1970. Its primary concern is the preservation of our natural resources by promoting the recycling of such materials as glass, tin, aluminum, paper and cardboard.

The small community of Zelienople, a town of approximately 3,500 people in the Pittsburgh area, organized a chapter of GRIP under the leadership of Wes Hamilton. This organization is actively concerned with the future of our land and natural resources, and has achieved great success in their endeavors. As a citizen concerned with the ecological state of our nation, I feel that the Zelienople chapter of GRIP certainly deserves recognition.

The most amazing thing about this group of energetic, dedicated individuals is that they are children, ranging in age from 8-18. Enclosed is a resume of the activities Zelienople GRIP has initiated or participated in since its beginning in June, 1971. Weekends and entire summer vacations were sacrificed by these kids to become involved in the improvement of the community and the future of our natural resources.

Twice a month, through the cooperation of a local drive-in bank, these young people gather to operate the recycling center. They remove the materials from the cars of the 200 families that come through the center and separate the materials into glass, tin cans, paper, and cardboard. These things are then taken to Pittsburgh, where they are recycled.

From its start with 50 families in the Zelienople-Harmony area, the center now serves over 200 families and has handled some 280,00 pounds of glass, tin cans, and paper. Conservation figures, when fitted to these local collections, show that they have saved the mining of 32,000 pounds of iron ore; 26,000 pounds of coal; and 13,000 pounds of limestone. This same material would be used to manufacture 26,000 pounds of new steel. The recycled paper has saved 1,300 trees. Plans are still indefinite, but hopes are high for the construction of a complete recycling center.

But these young "grippers" didn't stop with devoting two Sundays a month to help our environment. They decided there should be somewhere to go to enjoy the natural beauty of our land and to appreciate what it was they were trying to save. The answer was a natural park, with picnic facilities, nature and bike trails, a fishing dock, and foot bridge. They were given a strip of land about four tenths of a mile long by Lava-Crucible Industries in Zelienople, and transformed it from a rat-infested area of debris, to a beautiful natural park. Thousands of shrubs and seedlings were planted, trails and a parking lot were cut, and wood-chipped, and a drinking fountain was installed. A boat dock was built, but unfortunately the flood last summer destroyed it. The kids weren't discouraged, but continued to work even harder. Two picnic shelters have just been built, ending the work for this year.

The project was entered in a twelve county contest of the Pennsylvania Federation of Women's Clubs and won the state first prize award of \$70.00. The majority of equipment and materials used in the construction of the park was donated by the Zelienople area industries, merchants, and organizations. GRIP is a non-profit organization, and the money received for recyclable goods is used to support projects.

I have never seen kids more enthusisatic and sincere than those who work for the Zelienople chapter of GRIP. Through their determination and hard work, the ecological future of our country may become a brighter one. They certainly deserve recognition for their efforts and the knowledge that the President of the United States thought so, too, would make all that they have done extra-special, and just a stimulus for what they can accomplish as adults. This organization may be contacted at:

Zelienople G.R.I.P.
c/o Wesley Hamilton
300 South Jefferson Street
Zelienople, Pennsylvania 16063

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Sue Weyman
Sue Weyman

I. LITTER CAMPAIGNS

1. July 1971. Ten miles of state highway; RT. 68 between Zelienople and Evans City and 5 miles north on RT. 19. The state Department of Transportation picked up the bagged litter which the volunteers gathered (about 200 bushels).
2. October 17, 1971. The entire boro of Zelienople was policed, with the Boro paying the disposal cost of about 50 bushels of litter.

II. Earth Week Activities. (1972)

Our first program since Zelle GRIP was organized was less than a huge success. However, we feel that all considered, our time was not wasted. We sponsored a seminar at which we had 3 speakers: a member of GASP, a professor of environmental chemistry, and Byron Breisch of the US Department of Agriculture (soil conservationist).

We also sponsored an anti-polluting vehicle race, which included any man powered "machine". This race was very successful.

During the week volunteers also distributed sheets to tell families how to cut down on pollution in the home.

III. MEETINGS ATTENDED, ETC.

During our 18 month existence, we have endeavored to attend all meetings concerning our environment. GRIP people were in attendance at meeting on Connoquenessing flood control possibilities as reported by the Army Corps of Engineers in September of 1971; the air quality hearings in Allegheny County last winter; a meeting of environmental groups with county, state, and federal officials to determine county problems. We also attempt to keep up with all federal and state and county legislation and programs.

IV. OTHER COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

1. Parades: We entered the 1971 & 1972 4th of July events and the 1971 halloween parade.
2. Volunteers manned lemonade stands during Old Fashioned Days in 1972.

V. THE LEAF MULCHER

1. We failed in both 1971 and 1972. In 1971 we had about \$2500 of the \$4,000 - \$5,000 cost pledged, and felt that '72 would be our year to sell the idea for three reasons: 1) We had been in existence for a year and had become an accepted success in the community...no one asked "Who's GRIP?"; 2) The idea had been well publicized in '71 and Zelienople council would have more time to study the program; and 3) We were convinced that the machine could be used by several boros and thus could expand our soliciting base.

Why we failed is easily explained. Harmony and Evans City Boros readily accepted our proposal to use the machine if we bought it, but Zelienople Council did not accept the offer (nor reject it). Zelienople was the key to the purchase, since our big supporters lie within its boundaries and we were counting on at least half our funds coming from there. We did not give up though until two factors forced it: 1) the kids got very discouraged that no answer was forthcoming from Council and once school started, their free time would be severely limited; and 2) the people, industries, and organizations all began telling us to come back after Zelienople approved its use. Thus the project died, and since so much must be done environmentally, we cannot afford to waste precious time. There are no plans to revive it in the future unless our time can be productively spent on it.

VI. RECYCLING

	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972 TO DATE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1. GLASS	17,000#	70,350 #	87,350 #
2. TIN CANS	5,000	21,200	26,200
3. PAPER	<u>35,000</u> 57,000 #	<u>131,460</u> 223,010 #	<u>166,460</u> 280,010 #

There is a large increase for 1972, but even though our first collection was not until June 28, 1971, we still have more than doubled our yearly collection volume. We should exceed $\frac{1}{4}$ million pounds for the year, since we still have 4 collections remaining in 1972.

The benefits of our program are numerous. First, the Tandfill space saved is great. Secondly, our net profits are put back into the community. For example, GRIP has donated over \$400 to the Connoquenessing Creek Park. Thirdly, our natural resources are saved: 1) glass recycling cuts the cost to consumers and saves on sand, etc. needed for manufacture; 2) Tin cans reap two benefits--the tin plating is soaked off & used in the making of chemicals and the steel is then returned to the mill for recycling. The conservation figures from this are that we have saved the mining of 32,000 lbs. of iron ore, 26,000 lbs. of coal, and 13,000 lbs. of limestone which would be needed to manufacture 26,000 lbs of new steel; and 3) since it takes 16 trees to make a ton of paper, we have saved over 1,300 trees by our efforts.

We have expanded our materials this year to include magazines and waste paper and coat hangers, which explains much of our increase, but our patrons have also increased dramatically from 63 our first collection, to more than 200 families per collection. We estimate that we are servicing some 10%-14% of the areas families, which hopefully will increase next year.

VII. CONNOQUENESSING CREEK PARK

GRIP, with the sponsorship of the Zellenople-Harmony Chamber of Commerce, has a natural park nearly finished, thanks to the co-operation of area business, industry, and service clubs.

The following have been completed this year thus far:

1. Parking lot: The old lava warehouse emptied, demolished, and the rubble hauled away. The lot was then covered with a layer of gravel, and two layers of woodchips. (about 60 tons of materials cover the surface-- 40 tons of gravel, and 20 tons of woodchips). Railroad ties outline the lot.
2. A bicycle rack installed adjacent to the parking lot, with capacity for about 30 bikes.
3. Construction of a small shelter to house our display case.
4. The planting of over 300 seedlings and over 1300 plants and flowers.
5. Construction of a drinking fountain (& water line).
6. Erection of a 160 foot split rail fence.
7. Grass seeding of over 15,000 square feet.
8. Pouring two 18'x18' pads for picnic shelters.
9. Clearing more than two acres of land, cutting down over 50 trees, & splitting more than 20 pickup truck loads of firewood, and the removal of all stumps.
10. Demolition of an old pump house.
11. Cutting more than 1 mile of walking paths.

The remaining are being worked on now, and will be completed yet this year:

1. Roofing, and shingling both shelters.
2. Construction of the display case.
3. More land clearing.

VIII PROJECTS FOR 1973

1. Conno Park. We are setting a May completion date. The following remain to be done:
 - a. Construction of a 200 foot bridge.
 - b. Completion of our second parking lot which will be located on the west bank.
 - c. Assembling the picnic tables.
 - d. Cutting nature trails on the west bank.
 - e. Planting of about 2000 seedlings.
 - f. Rebuilding a boat dock (the first was swept away in the June flood).
2. The building of a complete recycling center. Plans for it are very indefinite. What we will accomplish is the combining of collection and our storage facilities at one location. The possibilities for expansion are very great indeed. What we hope to achieve is an automation of our program. We ~~are~~ presently are investigating the possibility of purchasing a paper bailer, a glass smasher, and a dump truck. If done this will eliminate the need for much manual labor, multiple handling of materials, and we will either ship by rail or by tractor trailer. Our volume capacity could go up to a million plus pounds yearly.
3. Participation in a county environmental organization. GRIP is presently represented on the steering committee for such a group. Although still vague, its objectives will range from education to actual conservation projects.
4. One possible project, if we have time, is rock rip rapping of all storm sewer outlets in Harmony and Zelienople. This is a simple construction in which large flat rocks are placed on the creek bank between the sewer outlet and the creek to prevent bank erosion.
5. A more effective Earth Week program.

1. Robinson Industries Inc. - Steel fabricating.
2. Eberle's Plumbing & Heating - Labor and parts for the drinking fountain.
3. Halstead Industries - Sheathing for shelter roofing, use of a yardloader, 60 ft. of copper for water line, 2"x4" 's for forms, lumber for the boat dock, & welding.
4. The Herman Corporation - The bike rack, and the shelter roof rafters.
5. Lava Crucible - The use of a truck, chain saw, and donation of land.
6. Boro of Zelienople - Our building permit, water, electricity, and the Rotary Hut which we are using to shelter the display case.
7. Frankenstein Builders' Supply - 10 tons of gravel
8. J.J.Kennedy - 1 ton of limestone.
9. Knoechel Heating - trucks
10. Johns-Mansville - all our shingle, some tar paper, & 5 gallon buckets.
11. C.T. McCormick's - The use of tools, spreaders, etc.
12. Foreman, Dorsch, Bashford, & Wallace - An overall drawing of our park, shelter, picnic table, and bridge blueprints.
13. Western Auto - Tools.
14. Harper's Service Station - Tow Truck.
15. Ziegler's Esso - Gas & oil.
16. McConahay's Gulf - tire repair.
17. IGA - food for picnics.
18. Minehart Excavating & Grading - Warehouse demolition & stump removal.
19. Ken Newcum - Removal of rubble from warehouse demolition
20. American Universal Sales Corporation - Use of Scaffold.
21. Penn Power - Lag bolts for shelters.

6
Audience
(with photo)

EXECUTIVE
August 5, 1973 MA2-53
620 Canepa Drive PG346
Santa Cruz, California
95066

T/D
SCHEDULE BD.
DATE RECEIVED

AUG 21 1973

RMN MESSAGE
SPEAKERS BUREAU
OTHER

Honorable Richard M. Nixon
President of the United States
The White House, Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

In April of 1972 you appointed me a Member of your Advisory Committee on the Environmental Merit Award Program which is administered by the Environmental Protection Agency. Since my appointment to this Advisory Committee, I have sought to keep informed about the operation of the Award Program. On several occasions I have met with Program staff members in Washington and here in California.

I have been particularly concerned that the program maintain credibility among the student community. It is my belief that high school students deserving of recognition through this program are, on the whole, a sophisticated group of individuals. They are accustomed to meeting high standards. The Awards Program must therefore establish meaningful standards and not permit continued wholesale distribution of awards. Without such standards the program will be compromised in the eyes of both students and their teachers. I do not want to see that happen.

To date the Advisory Committee has never met. No one has ever sought my advise about the program. All contact with the program has been initiated by me. I am not convinced that the talents available among the Members of the Advisory Committee are being utilized by the staff of the program. This is only important insofar as the program fails now to set any sort of meaningful criteria for the awards. Either the Committee should be meaningfully involved in the operation of the Environmental Merit Award Program or the Committee should be abolished.

I will be in Washington later this month. I would be pleased to discuss this matter with a member of your staff at that time. Until then I may be reached at my office in San Francisco. The phone number is (415) 989-8806. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Lance M. King

Lance M. King, Member
President's Advisory Committee
on the
Environmental Merit Award Program

155
0496
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date: August 22, 1973

MEMO FOR: DICK FAIRBANKS

FROM: DAVID PARKER

The attached is for your appropriate handling.

Thank you.

D/set up meeting with
King + the EPA types

September 12, 1973

Dear Miss Engelhardt:

The "Action Express" column of the Chicago Tribune brought to my attention your letter of July 26 regarding the Presidential Awards of Excellence to a group of students of Niles West High School.

It appears possible that the students received the older certificates which were not signed and which we had understood were not used. I have discussed this with Miss Leslie Arsht of the Environmental Protection Agency, and if you will return the certificates to her, she will be glad to see that the correct certificates are sent.

Miss Arsht's address is: Presidential Environmental Merit Award Program, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D. C. 20460.

President Nixon is most appreciative of the efforts of teachers and students across the country through the program, and we are hopeful that you will continue to encourage students in Skokie to participate.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Ronald L. Ziegler
Press Secretary
to the President

Miss Annie Engelhardt
7929 Austin Avenue
Skokie, Illinois 60076

bcc: Leslie Arsht

RZ/WP/gg

RECEIVED

SEP 13 1973

CENTRAL FILES

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

Date: September 5, 1973
Reply to Leslye Arsht (755-0496) *L Arsht*
Attn of:
Subject: Draft reply to request for presidential signature
To: Wanda Phelan for Ron Ziegler

I'm afraid this draft reply is a little stilted but there is a reason. Obviously, the thousands of PEMAP certificates sent out yearly are not signed by RN personally; the blank certificates are imprinted with the signature. That means we will toss the old certificates when they are returned. We will then have signed blanks re-inscribed with the students names and return them to them. I hesitate to indicate that I will have RN "sign them" since that is not the case. But you may work with this as I'm sure you have a normal procedure for such things. It might be awkward for Ron to say that I will take care of this instead of him. If you want them returned to you at the WH and then send them over to me... that's ok with me.

If there is a problem let me know.

D R A F T

Ms. Annie Engelhardt
Niles Township Reclamation Center
7029 Austin Avenue
Skokie, Illinois 60076

Dear Ms. Engelhardt:

Your request to have President Nixon sign the Certificates of Excellence received by students at Niles West High School for their participation in the President's Environmental Merit Award Program (PEMAP) has come to my attention.

I have spoken with the Director of PEMAP who tells me that in the first year of the program the certificates were not signed by the President. However, all PEMAP certificates are now signed by President Nixon.

If you will return the certificates to the PEMAP director, she will take care of the signatures and then return them to you.

Send the certificates to : Ms. Leslye Arsht
PEMAP
EPA
Washington, D.C. 20460

The President has just recently encouraged all teachers and students to join efforts in PEMAP. We hope that you will continue to encourage students in Skokie to involve themselves in improving our environment.

Sincerely,

Ron Ziegler

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

To: Miss Ann Dore
Director of Public Affairs
EPA

Date: August 28, 1973

ACTION REQUESTED

☒ Draft reply for:
____ President's signature.
____ Undersigned's signature.
Ronald L. Ziegler
____ Memorandum for use as enclosure to
reply.
____ Direct reply.
____ Furnish information copy.
____ Suitable acknowledgment or other
appropriate handling.
____ Furnish copy of reply, if any.
____ For your information.
____ For comment.

NOTE

Prompt action is essential.

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered,
please telephone the undersigned immediately,
Code 1450.

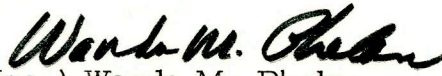
Basic correspondence should be returned when
draft reply, memorandum, or comment is re-
quested.

REMARKS:

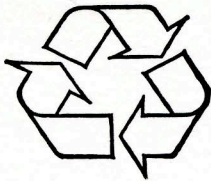
Description:

☒ Letter: _____ Telegram: _____ Other: _____
To: White House
From: Annie Engelhardt, 7929 Austin Ave., Skokie, Illinois 60076
Date: July 26, 1973
Subject: A group of Niles West High School students received Presidential Awards.
The "Presidential" Awards do not anywhere have the signature of the president,
How can they arrange for the President to sign them personally.

By direction of the President:


(Mrs.) Wanda M. Phelan
Staff Assistant

(Copy to remain with correspondence)



NILES TOWNSHIP

RECLAMATION CENTER

7929 AUSTIN AVENUE, SKOKIE ILLINOIS 60076 (312) 679-0425

White House

July 26, 1973

Action Express
435 N. Michigan
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Sir or Madame:

In March, a group of Niles West High School (Skokie) students received Presidential Awards of Excellence for their operation of the Niles Township Reclamation Center, the area recycling center.

The "Presidential" Awards do not anywhere have the signature of the president, and we feel that they should. How can we send these certificates to Mr. Nixon and be sure that he receives them, signs them personally, and returns them to us?

Thank you for your help. I can be reached at 967-7893.

Sincerely,

Annie Engelhardt

Annie Engelhardt

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CHICAGO TRIBUNE'S

Action Express



TRIBUNE TOWER • 435 N. MICHIGAN AVE.
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611

RZ
AUG 1 1973

Dear Sir:

The enclosed request for help is one of thousands that the Chicago Tribune's Action Express has received this week. We have not attempted to verify whether any of the statements made in the enclosed request are factually correct, but the fact that someone felt concerned enough to seek help from Action Express merits an inquiry.

In behalf of our readers, we ask that you give this request your consideration. If you later decide that action is appropriate, we would appreciate being informed of the action taken.

Please return the enclosed materials with your reply.

Sincerely,

Wm. Sluis

William Sluis
Action Express Editor