



**WACO ISD EDUCATION FOUNDATION
COVER SHEET – PART II
Application for Grant:
2026-2027 Funding Cycle**

Assigned Grant Proposal #: _____

Project Title: _____

Grade Level(s): _____ # of Students DIRECTLY involved: _____

Subject Area(s): _____

Amount Requested: \$ _____

Grant Focus Area(s): In order to be considered, Waco Education Foundation Innovation Grant proposals must fall under one or more of the E4 focus areas: early childhood development, enhanced programming for advanced students, extended education for staff, and emphasis on student performance. NOTE: In addition to meeting one of the E4 focus areas above, grant readers are especially interested in creative and innovative grant requests that target fine arts, STEM, literacy, or enrichment.

(check all that apply)

Early Childhood Development

Enhanced Programming for Advanced Students

Fine Arts

Literacy

Extended Education for Staff

Emphasis on Student Performance

STEM

Enrichment

2026 Education Foundation Grant Proposal

#52

Project A.I.M. (Archery Instilling Motivation) for Excellence

Project Description: This grant would enable our program to purchase equipment so that students can join the ranks of over 1.3 million National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) student archers from over 9000 schools. NASP is an activity that doesn't discriminate based on popularity, athletic skill, gender, size, or academic ability. It's a team sport that is open to any student. NASP is an in-school program aimed at improving educational performance among students in grades 4–12. Through it, students are learning focus, self-control, discipline, patience, and the life lessons required to be successful, and to achieve excellence in and out of the classroom.

1. Rationale:

Archery is something we can offer as a part of our curriculum and as an after-school team. Archery would enable us to help our campus achieve its goal of creating a safe and supportive environment in which students, staff, and parents are meaningfully and actively engaged in increasing positive behavior, regular attendance, and academic success. Students who are successful in archery could be rewarded with scholarship opportunities after high school. For example, Texas A&M has awarded students with \$4000.00 scholarships, and its archery team has won 22 National championships since 1996. The equipment purchased through the NASP program is sold at a discounted price, high-quality, and kid-friendly. It is safe, and the program is well-designed to ensure students' success and safety. Archery Instructors must be trained by NASP and agree to follow the procedures they have tested and proven. Archery's safety record is exemplary. The National Safety Council rates archery as more accident-free than every popular ball sport, including tennis and golf.

Research supports the benefits of archery in schools as a tool for physical, social, and academic development. The National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) has shown that students who participate in archery demonstrate increased engagement, improved behavior, and higher levels of focus and self-regulation (NASP, 2022). Studies also indicate that physical activity is linked to improved academic performance, concentration, and classroom behavior (CDC, 2010). Archery in particular requires self-discipline, patience, and goal-setting skills that transfer directly to academic learning and lifelong success.

Additionally, archery is an activity that supports equity and inclusion. Unlike many sports, it does not rely on height, strength, or speed, making it accessible to a wide range of abilities, backgrounds, and learning needs. Providing this program ensures that every student has the opportunity to discover their strengths, celebrate progress, and feel a sense of belonging.

2. Goals:

- Student Development & Well-being:
 - Academic and Behavioral Improvement: Programs like NASP report increased attendance, improved grades, and better behavior.
 - Mental Fortitude: Fostering focus, concentration, self-control, and patience.
 - Confidence Building: Boosting self-esteem through individual achievement and skill mastery.
 - Physical Health: Developing hand-eye coordination, strength, and endurance.
- Athletic and Technical Skills:

- Mastering Fundamentals: Teaching safe, consistent, and accurate shooting techniques.
- Versatility: Developing skills in both traditional bullseye and 3D archery.
- Competition: Preparing athletes for local, state, and regional competitions.
- Inclusivity and Life Skills:
 - Accessibility: Providing a sport that is accessible regardless of gender, physical size, or athletic ability, per the NFHS.
 - Lifelong Sport: Encouraging a passion for a sport that can be practiced beyond high school.
 - Core Values: Instilling respect, integrity, and humility.

3. Plan of Operation:

Objectives: The archery equipment will be used annually as a core unit in physical education, serving all students in grades 9-12 for approximately two months each school year. This ensures that every student has the opportunity to participate, regardless of prior experience or athletic ability. The equipment will also support an after-school archery club, providing additional opportunities for students who wish to deepen their skills, prepare for competitions, or enjoy archery as a recreational activity. Archery is a safety-centered program by design. Instruction begins with structured routines that emphasize proper form, respect for equipment, and consistent safety protocols. The National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) model, which our class will follow, has an excellent track record of safe implementation nationwide, demonstrating that students can participate responsibly when instruction is clear and consistent. This structured approach not only builds confidence and discipline but also ensures that equipment is well-maintained and used correctly, extending its lifespan. NASP requires all instructors to complete the Basic Archery Instructor course, which I have taken and am now certified. This is not a one-time use project. The equipment is built for long-term, recurring use and will serve multiple grade levels year after year. By integrating archery into both the physical education curriculum and extended learning opportunities, while maintaining a strong safety framework, this project will have a sustained, lasting, and responsible impact on student engagement, skill development, and overall success. NASP offers a ready-made (and free) curriculum designed for grades 9-12 that starts by teaching students how to shoot a bow before they actually use one.

Timeline: Implementation of Project AIM would begin upon receiving the funds to purchase the required equipment. Additional grant funds have been approved through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, but expire at the end of April 2026 (email attached at end of proposal). Students would start by learning about range safety and the 11 Steps to Archery Success, followed by using a string-bow to develop their skills, and culminate with shooting a bow and arrow at the target.

Community involvement: There will be support from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, as they help to fund the purchase of the whole package through a grant of up to \$1500 for start-up programs. They have already provided my training at no charge, and educational materials are free online. Students in the after-school team would have the opportunity to travel to and compete in tournaments throughout Texas, and may even qualify for state and national-level events.

4. Communication & Dissemination:

The equipment for archery can be used both indoors and outdoors, allowing for easy travel to other schools to perform demonstrations. The Foundation and its donors have an open invitation to observe and photograph Project AIM any time it is in session. The results of the competitions would be shared during the school's morning announcements.

5. Evaluation: Describe how the proposed project will be measured to determine if it was successful or effective.

One measure of the success of Project AIM will be the growth in interest it creates. The more students who want to participate in the after-school team, the more growth we create. If we have any students who take up archery on their own, we have had success. Archery is an Olympic sport. Giving the students the opportunity to experience a sport that is international is a cultural plus. Also, many have compared the discipline required for archery to the discipline required in some of the martial arts. These are all attributes that would indicate to me that Project AIM was a real success. If I have students and parents who want more than what we offer in class, we have had success in motivating students to get physical outside the school setting. We are successful if a student earns a scholarship to college for archery.

The NASP website can track an archer's performance throughout the course of their time in Project AIM, thus allowing us to objectively observe their progress and growth in the sport.

6. Long Term Implications: Explain plans for sustaining the project after the 2026-2027 school year, and/or include long-term impact for constituents.

Archery Equipment used in NASP is highly standardized to be safe, durable, economical, and most importantly, a universal fit for almost every student. In NASP® learning, the "process" of shooting is stressed far more than arrow scores. The only bow used in NASP® is a "Genesis" compound, which has no let-off and is adjustable from 10-20 pounds in draw weight at any draw length. The only arrow is the Easton 1820 aluminum "Genesis" arrow. Bows come in left and right-handed options, and the available draw weight ranges allow for student growth and strengthening. Since there is an arrow curtain, arrows that miss the target are recovered after each round of shooting, so there is no need to hunt for lost arrows. The starting package recommends the purchase of a repair kit, and there are videos online demonstrating the repairs. All equipment is purchased through NASP at deeply discounted prices (retail bow \$214.00 vs NASP \$122.00). The future of Project AIM would only require the replacement of damaged arrows and worn-out draw strings. Those supplies could be purchased through fundraisers or the campus budget if available. If the program shows growth after the first 2-3 years, it may be necessary to buy more bows.

7. Key Personnel: List the responsibilities and qualifications of individuals who will carry out the project.

- **The Basic Archery Instructor (BAI) qualifications:**
 - **Must:** be at least 18 years old (non-high school student), attend a BAI class, and pass a BAI practical exam and score at least 80% on the exam.
 - **Must:** present/teach/coach a minimum of 10 hours of NASP® archery lessons each school year, and submit an online teaching activity report (naspbai.org) each school year.

- **BAI Responsibilities and Duties:**
 - **Safety Management:** Operate a safe range at all times using official NASP protocols, ensuring proper supervision.
 - **Instruction & Coaching:** Teach the 11 steps of archery, proper shooting form, and mental techniques to students of all skill levels.
 - **Equipment Maintenance:** Inspect, maintain, and properly store bows, arrows, targets, and safety equipment.

- **Tournament Preparation:** Organize and lead the team at local, state, and national tournaments.
- **Administrative Tasks:** Keep accurate records of attendance, student progress, and ensure compliance with NASP standards.
- **Equipment Set-up:** Set up archery ranges, including laying down precise floor tape for lanes (7 lines), and configuring targets.
- **Team Building:** Foster a positive environment focusing on sportsmanship, character development, and team unity.

8. Budget and Budget Narrative/Justification:

- **Budget Rationale:**

- **NASP Original Genesis Bow:** The recommended starting number is 12, three for left-handed shooters, and nine for right-handed shooters. Bows are initially set and vary draw weights from 10 to 20 lbs.
- **Easton 1820 Arrows Public School/Govt- 5 dz:** 10 dozen is the recommended starting number.
- **Morrell 33" Eternity Target:** Five targets are recommended, and two shooters share a target when in the firing line.
- **Arrow Curtain 30'x10':** Used to catch arrows that miss the target. Targets are required to be 60 inches apart when measured from the center.
- **Lancaster Repair Kit:** Used to make repairs to bows and arrows as needed, and to prolong the life of each.
- **Bowtree Rack:** Used to hold the bows when not being used on the range. Bows are hung up and not placed on the ground to prevent damage and prolong the life of the bow.
- **11 Steps Training Banner:** It is hung from the Arrow Curtain and is used to remind the archers of the steps to perform when shooting.
- **Correct Draw Length Banner:** It is hung from the Arrow Curtain and is used to demonstrate the correct way to draw the bow for shooting.

- **Vendor:**

- NASP is not listed on the current WACO ISD approved vendor list, but they have been used by other districts like MIDWAY ISD.
- All public schools and government agencies ordering arrows MUST complete the Federal Excise Tax Exemption Form (FET). This is NOT THE SAME as a sales tax exemption. Federal Excise Tax is charged to the arrow manufacturer, but they receive a credit when the arrows are ultimately sold to a public school or government agency. Our price reflects this credit, so they are required to obtain the FET Form prior to processing our order. This form is good for 3 years. All forms are available online (<https://www.naspschools.org/equipment-order-forms/>)

- **Other funds:**

- I have submitted and been approved for the TPWD New Archery Program grant of \$1500.00.

- The Texas NASP Grant Request Application process:
 - This form is for schools interested in acquiring grant money for the acquisition of archery equipment from naspschools.org.
 - Applications may be submitted from August 15th to April 1st each year. The money must be used by April 30, 2026
 - The application does not guarantee receiving the grant. Grant monies are given out on a first come first serve basis.
 - Funds will be given out at the time the equipment is paid for. \$1500 of the total equipment cost will be removed from the actual price of a full set of NASP equipment (approximately \$3300 or more for new schools).

- Copy of email from TPWD:

Army JROTC archery equipment.

Travis Glick

<Travis.Glick@tpwd.texas.gov>

Mon, Feb 2, 2026 at 11:25 AM

To: Marcus Haner <marcus.haner@wacoisd.org>

Marcus,

Your New School Grant has been approved. You may now purchase your gear from naspschools.org. Please use the order form from the below link and make sure to note that you are a New School Grant Recipient on your order form.

<https://www.naspschools.org/equipment-order-forms/> if you have any questions you can reach out to me or to orders@naspschools.org

Thank you,

