

## Talking Points to Use When Asking For Organization Support of the *Listening To the River* Program

1. First, pique their interest. *Have you heard about the innovative watershed education partnership in the area?*
2. Then, let them know the program is already underway and suggest they might want to get involved. *Local organizations are getting involved in one way or another, including [list several they know]. Point out similarities between LTTR's purpose/activities and theirs.*
3. Share the LTTR vision and the key facts. *The idea behind the LTTR program is to:*
  - *Tap the expertise and capacity of local and regional organizations*
  - *Help teens learn about their watershed and help them interpret their discoveries a*
  - *Empower teens to share their unique perspectives and contribute to their community*
  - *It's designed for out-of-school time as a bridge between formal and informal science learning.*
4. Next, add details as time and appropriateness dictate, such as:
  - *It will take place after school, on weekends and in the summer*
  - *Field Teams--made up of 4 teens, ages 11 – 17, content experts and other caring adults serving as volunteer guides--will go on Watershed Discovery Field Excursions into various sites in the GT watershed*
    - *Note that for Traverse City –based groups, many trips may be along the Boardman River; other groups might focus their field trips in their local area*
    - *Service learning credit may be earned*
    - *Content Specialists = science or technology expert for 1-3 events; honoraria apply*
    - *Volunteer Guides = caring adults who enjoy working with teens for duration of 8-week program, unpaid*
  - *Teams will use high-tech sound, mapping and video equipment to collect sights and sounds of the watershed location.*
  - *Then they spend time in production so they end up with products that inform younger kids, community audiences, and radio listeners about various facets of the watershed via web-based interactive maps, hands-on exhibits. and radio broadcasts.*
5. Explain the costs; describe what is needed.

*We hope to share the concept with other non-profits and move it along to other communities, where organizations with similar missions can pool their resources to generate similar activities.*



6. Ask them to play a part by:
  1. *Putting you in touch with people who can be volunteer guides/content experts;*
  2. *Helping to identify youth candidates for field teams;*
  3. *Publishing information in their organization newsletter;*
  4. *Providing a content specialist for a site they to which the organization is connected;*
  5. *Coordinating activities w/ LTTR (e.g., Discovery Hikes);*
  6. *Helping to disseminate the project information locally, statewide &/or nationally.*
  
7. Close by directing to the web site or setting up a follow-up meeting.

### **Try To Ask Specific Questions**

*Do you see ways we could work together on this?*

*Do you know a group of kids that might be interested?*

*Do you have organization members who would be good candidates for the volunteer roles?*

*Do you have a publication coming out soon on which we could piggyback?*

*Is there a meeting that we could attend to hear more about what you're doing and/or present some LTTR information to the group or board?*

*Are there other people you think we should contact?*

