

**2023 Lend-a-Hand Application**  
**Friends of Creamer's Field**  
**Questions 1-5**

**1. Please provide your mission statement and a brief summary of your organization's work.**

*Mission statement:* "Inspiring environmental stewardship and lifelong learning through experience, awareness, appreciation, and conservation of the natural and historic resources of Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge."

Friends of Creamer's Field (FOCF) offers educational programs to the Fairbanks community and its visitors. Programs feature the unique combination of historic and natural resources at Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge. FOCF also operates Camp Habitat, a summer day camp for youth ages 4-11. In addition to their year-round programs, FOCF manages a visitor center out of the original Creamer Family's farmhouse (circa 1908), which features interpretive exhibits on migratory birds and the historic Creamer Dairy complex. FOCF also works cooperatively with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to complete various restoration and accessibility projects on the Refuge.

**2. How does your work align with Co-op Market's mission and values?**

- *Service* - We provide a venue for community involvement through educational programs, annual events, and interpretive nature walks. Most of our events and programs are free, donation-based, and available to the public.
- *Sustainability* - We seek long-term organizational health through balanced budgets and living within our means. We also make every effort to support local businesses when making purchases with any contributions received.
- *Social Responsibility* - Our programs provide knowledge about local natural resources and our curriculum supports a conservation ethic. We provide a venue for community involvement and many opportunities for the public to act as "stewards" of our local refuge.

**3. How will the Lend a Hand funds be used?**

Lend a Hand funds will support the expansion of our educational outreach. They will also help us fund various projects around the Refuge such as resurfacing the parking lot by the Farmhouse; improving trail accessibility, specifically the Boreal Forest Trail; and updating our interpretive signage on the Refuge.

**4. If your organization has received funding from Co-op Market in the past, please describe how this funding supported your organization and mission.**

Previous awards have supported the delivery of educational programs offered to the public, free of charge. This includes advertising, program materials, and staff support required for implementation and delivery.

**5. What is your elevator pitch? Cashiers usually have about 10 seconds to describe our monthly recipient to a shopper. Please describe your organization and how the funds will be used in 100 words or less.**

Friends of Creamer's Field is a nonprofit organization that inspires environmental stewardship and lifelong learning through experience, awareness, appreciation, and conservation of the natural and historic resources of Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge. Any funds donated will allow Friends of Creamer's Field to continue providing the Fairbanks community with educational programs focused on the natural ecology of the refuge and the history of Creamers Dairy. Would you like to round up your bill to support Friends of Creamer's Field today?