



RISE Challenge Illinois will follow this [Proposal Checklist](#) (PDF) when students are ready to write-up their project proposals for formal submission.

Meanwhile, some previously submitted project summaries and project proposals included below also follow that Proposal Checklist. These samples showcase real-world examples of student projects that won prestige and funding in Colorado's Spring 2020 RISE Challenge Summit (previously called, Rocky Mountain Environmental Challenge). Reviewing them with your students may be helpful to get them inspired and understand how they can take on their own projects!

1st Place, \$1000 winner: Blevins Middle School

Seventh and eighth grade students at Blevins Middle School in Fort Collins, CO, identified a lack of emergency preparedness in their school community as a significant issue for their community. A school survey revealed that a large majority of students and their families lacked family emergency plans nor did they have adequate supplies in the case of a natural hazard emergency. In order to draw attention to this and start their community down the path of preparedness, the Blevins students decided to organize a community awareness event at their school. With support from their teacher, the students communicated with community stakeholders such as their principal, school district administrators, emergency response professionals, and city administrators to learn more about how to organize and coordinate a community awareness event and how to share the best information to Blevins families. As the students say in their proposal, "We love the community that we live in and we want to be able to have a positive impact on it. We asked the question, are we and our Blevins families prepared for a natural disaster? We want to have an informational night that helps educate our families about ... how we can be prepared for those emergencies."

2nd Place, \$800 Winner: Estes Park Middle School

Sixth grade students from Estes Park Middle School in Estes Park, CO, identified the risk of wildfire as a significant issue affecting their community. Specifically, these students identified a key feature of the Estes Park landscape, Prospect Mountain, as an area of increased fire risk due to being surrounded by homes, businesses, and utilities. To learn more about this issue the Estes students researched fire behavior, consulted with local professionals from the real estate, fire protection, and town planning fields. Through their research, these students developed a community awareness and grass-roots mitigation campaign to address this risk to their community. The students plan on holding a fire preparedness demonstration at a large annual community event where they will inform attendees of what they can do to prevent fire from spreading through the community. The students also plan on providing fire mitigation services to Estes Park residents this summer. Students will clear fire fuels from properties where owners are unable to do the work on their own. Their ultimate goal is to transform Estes Park into a nationally recognized “Firewise USA” community.

[LINK TO THE STUDENT GROUP'S WRITTEN PROPOSAL](#)

3rd Place, \$600 Winner: Mountain Sage Community School

Sixth and seventh graders from Mountain Sage Community School in Fort Collins, CO, identified a risk of an extended entrapment or shelter-in-place for their school in the event of a flood or blizzard. Located in close proximity to the Cache La Poudre River floodplain, the school has an increased risk for inaccessibility due to flooding and/or a blizzard. The Mountain Sage students spoke with a representative from Fort Collins’ Floodplain Management Office, reviewed information and videos about Fort Collins’ flood history, and conducted a preparedness audit of their school. From this research the students decided to develop an emergency preparedness plan for the school and purchase materials needed in the case a blizzard or flood event required the entire school to shelter-in-place for any extended duration. The Mountain Sage students plan to work with their school’s administration to formally adopt their emergency preparedness, purchase additional preparedness materials, and share their plan with other schools in their community.

4th Place: Compass Community Collaborative School (Fort Collins)

Middle and high school students developed a proposal to organize a community flood awareness and preparedness event at the Poudre Valley Mobile Home Park.

[LINK TO THE STUDENT GROUP'S WRITTEN PROPOSAL](#)

5th Place: Knowledge Quest Academy (Milliken)

Students created a plan to design and install park shelters and bus stops to keep residents safe during a storm event.

Additional Project/Proposal Examples -

Compass Community Collaborative School

Students proposed a permeable median in their school parking lot to mitigate flooding risk and improve water quality.

[LINK TO THE STUDENT GROUP'S PROJECT PROPOSAL](#)

High Plains School

Three different groups proposed three different solutions to improve a drainage issue around their school. Click each solution type below to review that written proposal.

- [Cement Pad](#)
- [French Drain](#)
- [River Rock](#)

Blevins Middle School

Students proposed installing additional wildlife cameras to more broadly monitor the effectiveness of flooding mitigation.

[LINK TO THE STUDENT GROUP'S WRITTEN PROPOSAL](#)

A Fort Collins School - Water Festival & Seed Bombs for 3rd Graders

Students proposed hosting a Water Festival to teach 3rd graders about flooding risk and erosion, which included production and distribution of "seed bombs".

[LINK TO THE STUDENT GROUP'S WRITTEN PROPOSAL](#)

Webber Middle School - Natural Disaster Emergency Kits

Students proposed creating emergency kits to better equip the school in case of a natural disaster during which people needed to shelter in place there.

[LINK TO THE STUDENT GROUP'S WRITTEN PROPOSAL](#)