

B.E.A.R. Project Procedure

1. A chapter decides they would like to do the B.E.A.R. Project and informs President Kathy.
2. The chapter picks a low income school they would like to start it in and sets a time to meet with the principal to discuss it. Kathy is willing to participate in this initial presentation.
3. The school needs to pick one teacher to be a liaison person to the chapter. It works best if there is a chapter member working at the school who is willing to be this liaison person.
4. The first year Kathy will set up a kit for the school that will include all the materials needed to run the program for 25 families who have a newborn child in the family during the year.
5. The materials will be delivered to the school by the chapter. It will be up to the school to decide how they want to honor the families and give out the backpacks. Most schools like to include the families in an all school assembly. Parents, the new baby and siblings are invited to the assembly. Siblings take a reading pledge with the principal and sign it. Once that is done they are given a backpack to take home. The backpack includes books and a teddy bear for the new baby, information about reading and child development for the parents, a note from the principal and a new book for each sibling.
6. Some chapters set up a bulletin board and take pictures of the families to display. Students are also given a reading log to fill out each time they read by themselves or to the new baby. Small incentives are given to the children who return their reading logs. It is up to the school working with the chapter to decide if you would like to do this, what could you use as incentives and who would purchase them. One school purchases new books from Scholastic with points they earn when students order books.

Does your grant money cover the cost of the books and backpacks?

What are the costs involved?

Is it safe to say that you and one of our members would visit the principals to offer up the program?

Could you estimate the amount of time a chapter spends in administering this project?

Are chapter members involved in the assemblies?

Could you sequence the steps to launching this program with a school?

The qualified school(s) should be easy to find through the district offices. I think that in order make this part of Beta Beta, I would need to write up a proposal for the executive board to approve. There is some internal chapter organizational changes that may need to occur. It may need approval of the membership. The earliest that could happen is in September or maybe October. Would that be too late for you?