

21 September 1971

Mr. Robert Scott  
President  
Rotary Club of Space Center  
Houston, Texas

Dear Bob:

This is in response to your inquiry concerning the needs and proposed activities of the Community Environment subcommittee under Community Service.

As you know Bob, the Earth Awareness Foundation, which is now beginning its second year of activity, is a direct community service spinoff from our Rotary Club Drug Awareness Committee of some two years ago.

Few Rotary clubs in the world can point to accomplishments of greater potential benefit to mankind than the initiation of a service organization with goals of international significance. The Earth Awareness Foundation board of directors includes four active Rotarians, two of whom are Apollo astronauts. These men and others assisting them are working assiduously to develop environmental education activities for youth which will provide constructive alternatives to involvement in the abusive use of drugs.

Assets of this group are currently approaching \$100,000, three offices have been established, eight professional and clerical staff personnel have been employed to develop program content, and a monthly newsletter is now distributed to some 2000 opinion-makers in the United States and foreign countries.

Last year, approximately a dozen high school students of the Clear Lake area initiated the nation's first chapter affiliate organization of the Earth Awareness Foundation, known as Earth, I Care. This activity grew rapidly, influencing and involving more than 100 students before year's end. Special recognition was accorded this group by the student body and school administration of the Clear Creek Independent School District, spotlighting Earth, I Care as the most active student organization on campus during the school year. This year, some 200 juniors and seniors are reported to have signed up to participate in chapter activities under the guidance of the Earth Awareness Foundation.

You know also of the Student Summer Scientist Program initiated by the Earth Awareness Foundation with the cooperation and active support of the University of Houston and the Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority. This well-publicized project of ten weeks duration provided income as well as an educational experience for the participants and is to be continued and enlarged next year to involve more students in meaningful summer activity.

It is important for Rotarians to know that this is an activity of far-reaching significance, in that the Foundation, through its various communication channels, is keeping other community schools throughout the United States and in Canada apprised of local chapter activities and fostering the development of similar programs at other geographical locations.

It would seem appropriate, through our Club's Community Environment Committee, to channel a significant portion of our collective energies and resources towards the support and development of Foundation programs beneficially affecting the young people of our immediate area.

Since this is an innovative effort and extra-curricular in nature, school funds cannot be allocated to the chapter or its members. It is therefore recommended that the sum of \$1000 be donated by our Club to the Clear Creek Independent School System for the specific purpose of providing two \$500 each scholarships or fellowships for student participation in next summer's Student Environmental Quality Survey which will encompass again a thorough examination of the Clear Lake Basin to establish additional baseline data on the cause and effect of both natural and man-caused pollution of this important recreational area.

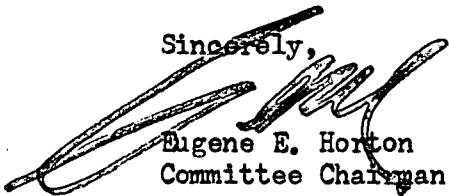
It is also recommended that an additional \$200 be presented to the Club's adult advisor to be placed in the treasury to cover books, laboratory equipment, transportation, mailings and other expenses associated with conducting local environmental improvement activities designed and carried out by student groups.

Finally, I would recommend that the names of incoming Rotary members be matched with the names of student participants in this year's Earth, I Care club and announced in our weekly bulletin. New members would then be encouraged to bring their students at least once each school semester to our noon luncheons to be recognised and to report on club activities and needs. This should be enlightening and beneficial to our Rotary membership.

The local Earth, I Care club provides, in my judgement, an excellent mechanism for bridging the generation gap and bringing Rotarians and young concerned citizens together to address the problems of preserving the quality of the community environment. It is also, as I have suggested earlier, a constructive alternative to drug use.

I earnestly hope that our board will respond affirmatively to this appeal and accept these activities as the thrust of its Community Environment subcommittee under Community Service for the present Rotary year.

Sincerely,



Eugene E. Horton  
Committee Chairman

cc: EAF Board of Directors