

Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on November 7, 2025

M.L. 2022 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2025

Project Title: Increasing K-12 Student Learning to Develop Environmental Awareness, Appreciation, and Interest

Project Manager: Bryan Wood

Affiliation: Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center

Mailing Address: PO Box 530 54165 Audubon Drive

City/State/Zip: Sandstone, MN 55072

Phone: (320) 245-2648

E-mail: wood@ospreywilds.org

Website: <https://ospreywilds.org/>

Funding Source:

Fiscal Year:

Legal Citation: M.L. 2022, Chp. 94, Sec. 2, Subd. 05b

Appropriation Amount: \$1,602,000

Amount Spent: \$1,602,000

Amount Remaining: -

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

Working collaboratively from September 2022 - June 2025, Minnesota's five accredited environmental learning centers (Deep Portage, Eagle Bluff, Long Lake, Osprey Wilds, & Wolf Ridge) educated over 23,000 K-12 learners through 414 school visits, providing over 360,000 instruction hours and over 1,000,000 onsite hours at our campuses!

Overall Project Outcome and Results

Children today are increasingly deprived of time in nature (less than 10 minutes daily), resulting in a lack of awareness, understanding, and contact with the environment. To meet the urgent need of getting kids more time outside and in nature, Minnesota's five accredited environmental learning centers (ELCs) provided needs-based, life-changing environmental learning experiences from Sep. 2022 - June 2025 to 23,061 K-12 learners through 414 school visits. Through our needs-based scholarships, the average attending K-12 student received over 12 hours in outdoor, nature-based classes, and 48 hours onsite in natural environments at the environmental learning centers' campuses. Students' curiosity was sparked through hands-on, sensory-rich activities. Overall, the ELCs delivered over 360,000 instruction hours and over 1,000,000 onsite hours at our campuses.

After students' experiences at the environmental learning centers, 50% of students reported a deeper appreciation of nature. Students began noticing natural systems they had previously overlooked, and immersive outdoor experiences made students care about the outdoors in a new way. Students who were typically disengaged in class showed excitement and calm when outside; teachers frequently commented on how even hesitant or disconnected students became engaged once outdoors.

Teachers consistently reported that time at Minnesota's ELCs shifted students' relationship with the environment from passive observation to active engagement and that instructors helped students notice and understand their surroundings more deeply, from observing wildlife behaviors to connecting class concepts with real-world examples. Instructors were praised for prompting reflection and relating lessons to students' daily lives, helping them see how human choices impact nature. Schools noted that students returned home eager to share what they learned and to explore nature more on their own. Teachers reported students expressing a desire to "take care of nature" after their experience.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Throughout the project, the participating environmental learning centers promoted the project on their websites, through digital and print newsletters, individualized emails to teachers and school administrators, social media accounts, annual reports, and at in-person educator conferences. Please see the attachments in Tab 7 from each center. In addition, a video made highlighting the effect of the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund was made in conjunction with the Science Museum of MN (see media link in Tab 7).



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2022 Approved Final Report

General Information

Date: November 12, 2025

ID Number: 2022-029

Staff Lead: Mike Campana

Project Title: Increasing K-12 Student Learning to Develop Environmental Awareness, Appreciation, and Interest

Project Budget: \$1,602,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Bryan Wood

Organization: Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center

Office Telephone: (320) 245-2648

Email: wood@ospreywilds.org

Web Address: <https://ospreywilds.org/>

Project Reporting

Final Report Approved: November 7, 2025

Reporting Status: Project Completed

Date of Last Action: November 7, 2025

Project Completion: June 30, 2025

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2022, Chp. 94, Sec. 2, Subd. 05b

Appropriation Language: \$1,602,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center to partner with Minnesota's five other accredited residential environmental learning centers to provide needs-based scholarships to at least 25,000 K-12 students statewide for immersive multiday environmental learning experiences.

Corrected in M.L. 2023, Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 13:

\$1,602,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with

Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center to partner with Minnesota's five other accredited residential environmental learning centers to provide needs-based scholarships to K-12 students statewide for immersive multiday environmental learning experiences.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2025

Narrative

Project Summary: Minnesota's six accredited residential environmental learning centers (RELCs) will provide life-changing, immersive multi-day environmental learning experiences to a minimum statewide distribution of 20,000 K-12 students, achieving ENRTF's goals.

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

Children today are increasingly deprived of time in nature (less than 30 minutes daily), resulting in a lack of awareness, understanding and contact with the environment. For students low on the socio-economic spectrum, this is compounded as there are typically no outdoor areas near where they live. Thirty-eight percent (over 323,000 children) of Minnesota's K-12 students qualify for free and reduced-price (FRP) meals, meaning a multi-day field trip is not financially feasible for tens of thousands of families. By offering scholarships for K-12 students who need support, we will provide meaningful hands-on nature experiences to children. Through our programs, the six renowned residential environmental learning centers of Minnesota (Deep Portage Learning Center, Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center, Laurentian Environmental Center, Long Lake Conservation Center, Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center, Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center) will provide more than 20,000 MN K-12 students with total immersion multi-day outdoor learning experiences. Minnesota's RELCs are uniquely positioned to make an incomparable impact on thousands of children through our accredited campuses across Minnesota. Every student experience will include multiple courses that are directly focused upon the learning outcomes of the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund's (ENRTF) constitutionally declared goals and objectives.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.

We will provide scholarship assistance for student tuition fees as needed for K-12 school, youth, and family programs, with each K-12 student spending a minimum of one night and two days onsite. We will reach a statewide population of K-12 students and schools geographically and demographically, with eligible schools, youth and families showing a clear financial need through our scholarship application process including determination via percentages of free and reduced-price (FRP) lunch program students, and/or personal financial needs for each family. There is an urgent demand for financial support for these learning experiences, with COVID-19 only increasing this need. Without scholarship support, Minnesota will not reach its ENRTF goals with our younger citizens. The RELCs as accredited schools provide evidence-based, hands-on outdoor programs that increase the number of children recreating and learning outdoors. Due to the nature of these multi-day intense learning experiences where the level of engagement is very high, student learning is such that it creates lifelong memories, which are the basis for developing the outdoor ethic Minnesotans are famous for. Minnesota's RELCs' reach for this remarkably expansive project is unmatched. All RELC staff are subject to and have passed criminal background checks.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

Provide a minimum of 20,000 K-12 Minnesota students multi-day learning experiences at Minnesota's RELCs, totaling a minimum of 300,000 instruction hours and 960,000 hours onsite. By giving K-12 students extended time in nature, we help Minnesota achieve ENRTF's goals and help students develop environmental awareness, appreciation and interest, crafting a future where environmental protection, conservation and stewardship are recognized, valued and implemented. Through financial support to underserved student populations, we address social, economic, and physical barriers to outdoor recreation. More individuals will go into environmental careers, as demonstrated by former participants employed at RELCs

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Statewide

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Statewide

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Increasing K-12 Student Residential Environmental Learning Experiences

Activity Budget: \$1,335,000

Activity Description:

Provide a minimum of 18,000 needs-based scholarships for Minnesota K-12 student tuition fees for school visits to Minnesota's RELCs for multi-day residential environmental learning experiences at one of Minnesota's six accredited residential environmental learning centers. To measure the development of environmental awareness, appreciation, and interest in K-12 students, each RELC will conduct on-site student and teacher surveys and evaluations before each school departs to gather information on how their awareness, appreciation and interest in the environment has changed. Each RELC will have an equal chance to use the funds starting out. If one RELC cannot distribute this amount in scholarships, they will open up their funds to the other RELCs to use for K-12 student scholarships. Each RELC will have a scholarship application that a school will fill out and submit. It will vary based on each request what the amount funded is for each school, based on the school's requested need, and funds available.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Reach out to Minnesota's Schools about the scholarship opportunities through print, electronic and verbal communications	December 31, 2022
Serve minimum of 4,000 K-12 students through awarded scholarships by end of year one.	June 30, 2023
Serve minimum of 4,000 K-12 students through awarded scholarships by end of year two.	June 30, 2024
Serve 10,000 K-12 students through awarded scholarships by end of year three.	June 30, 2025

Activity 2: Needs-based scholarships for youth and family programs for K-12 aged youth

Activity Budget: \$267,000

Activity Description:

Provide scholarship funds for K-12 aged youth for youth and family programming visits to Minnesota's RELCs for multi-day residential environmental learning experiences at one of Minnesota's accredited RELCs. To measure the development of environmental awareness, appreciation, and interest in K-12 students, each RELC will conduct on-site student valuations to gather information on how their awareness, appreciation and interest in the environment has changed. Each RELC will have an equal chance to use the funds starting out. If one RELC cannot distribute this amount in scholarships, they will open up their funds to the other RELCs to use for K-12 student scholarships. Each RELC will have a scholarship application that an applicant will complete, demonstrating clear financial need of their household/family. It will vary based on each request what the amount funded is. Scholarships will only be provided to K-12 students to cover costs, in whole or in part, incurred by the ELC in providing the program to that student, not to additional family members, and the scholarships will be limited to multi-day environmental learning programs.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Reach out to general public, families and schools to make aware of youth scholarship funds	June 30, 2025
Serve 2,000 K-12 youth through multi-day youth and family programs	June 30, 2025

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Dale Yerger	Deep Portage Learning Center	Executive Director	Yes
Colleen Foehrenbacher	Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center	Executive Director	Yes
Karl Brown	Laurentian Environmental Center	Director of Community Education, Mounds View Public Schools	Yes
David McMillan	Long Lake Conservation Center	Manager	Yes
Peter Smerud	Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center	Executive Director	Yes

Dissemination

Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.

Each RELC will disseminate information about this grant opportunity through multiple outlets including: printed and electronic promotional materials to Minnesota's public and private schools, individuals, and families advertisements and promotion on our accounts with various social media platforms, print and electronic newsletters to our individual organization's mailing and emailing lists, annual reports, and in-person promotion and acknowledgements at our onsite programs and offsite programs. Acknowledgement of the ENRTF will be included in all project communications and outreach – including press releases, media interactions, signs, publications, event advertisements & invitations, websites, newsletters, printed materials, presentations, and social media. All written communication will use at minimum the following wording "Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)." For each program, staff will state verbally to the entire group that their visit had "Funding provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.". The Acknowledgement Guidelines document has been shared with each RELC and they are aware that all communications need to be in accordance with the Acknowledgement Guidelines.

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?

The RELCs establish relationships with the attending schools helping them plan and schedule their experiences, and regularly providing them with fundraising support. The provided scholarships will not be for 100% of the experience, rather the respective RELC will work with each school to help them build a diverse fundraising strategy that creates long term stability. As each RELC works with dozens of different schools, lessons learned will be shared for community-based fundraising ideas to create fundraising campaigns that achieve 100% of their need. RELCS are economic drivers in their communities, collectively employing over 200 individuals annually across our six sites.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Increasing Residential Environmental Learning Center Opportunities	M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 05g	\$130,000

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
Personnel										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Contracts and Services										
Deep Portage Lerner Center	Subaward	Award approximately 2,875 scholarships for K-12 students for a multi-day residential environmental learning experience through school, family, or youth programming. The scholarship will vary based on each school/K-12 students' family's needs and funds available. Scholarships will only be available to students in K-12 grades and not family members.				0		\$230,400	\$230,400	-
Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center	Subaward	Award approximately 4,405 scholarships for K-12 students for a multi-day residential environmental learning experience through school, family, or youth programming. The scholarship will vary based on each school/K-12 students' family's needs and funds available. Scholarships will only be available to students in K-12 grades and not family members.				0		\$344,960	\$344,960	-
Long Lake Conservation Center	Subaward	Award approximately 4,000 scholarships for K-12 students for a multi-day residential environmental learning experience through school, family, or youth programming. The scholarship will vary based on each school/K-12 students' family's needs and funds available. Scholarships will only be available to students in K-12 grades and not family members.				0		\$328,240	\$328,240	-
Wolf Ridge Environmental	Subaward	Award approximately 4,720 scholarships for K-12 students for a				0		\$378,000	\$378,000	-

Learning Center		multi-day residential environmental learning experience through school, family, or youth programming. The scholarship will vary based on each school/K-12 students' family's needs and funds available. Scholarships will only be available to students in K-12 grades and not family members.								
							Sub Total	\$1,281,600	\$1,281,600	-
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Capital Expenditures										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Travel In Minnesota										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Travel Outside Minnesota										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Printing and Publication										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Other Expenses										
		K-12 Scholarships	Award approximately 3,980 scholarships to K-12 schools for a multi-day residential					\$313,432	\$313,432	-

			environmental learning experience of at least three days (48 hours), including a minimum of 15 instruction hours. Each school will submit a completed scholarship application. The scholarship amount will vary based on each school's need and funds available							
		Nonschool Scholarships for K-12 Students	Award approx. 20 scholarships for K-12 students attending multi-day residential environmental learning experience through family and youth programming. The scholarship amount will vary based on each K-12 students' family's needs and funds available					\$6,968	\$6,968	-
							Sub Total	\$320,400	\$320,400	-
							Grand Total	\$1,602,000	\$1,602,000	-

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
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Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
State						
			State Sub Total	-	-	-
Non-State						
Cash	Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center	K-12 Scholarship Support	Secured	\$180,000	-	\$180,000
Cash	Deep Portage Learning Center	K-12 Scholarship Support	Secured	\$120,000	-	\$120,000
Cash	Aitkin County	Long Lake Conservation Center Support	Secured	\$75,000	-	\$75,000
Cash	Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center	K-12 Scholarship Support	Secured	\$60,000	-	\$60,000
Cash	Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center	K-12 Scholarship Support	Secured	\$60,000	-	\$60,000
Cash	Long Lake Conservation Center Foundation	K-12 Scholarship Support	Secured	\$15,000	-	\$15,000
Cash	Ecolab Foundation	K-12 Scholarship Support for St. Paul Schools	Potential	\$30,000	-	\$30,000
Cash	Mayo Clinic Community Contribution Foundation	K-12 Scholarship Support for Olmsted County Schools	Potential	\$15,000	-	\$15,000
Cash	Onan Family Foundation	K-12 Scholarship Support for Minneapolis & St. Paul Schools	Potential	\$8,000	-	\$8,000
Cash	St. Paul Audubon Society	K-12 Scholarship Support for St. Paul Schools	Potential	\$4,000	-	\$4,000
Cash	Minneapolis Audubon Society	K-12 Scholarship Support for Minneapolis Schools	Potential	\$3,000	-	\$3,000
Cash	Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis	K-12 Scholarship Support for Minneapolis Schools	Potential	\$3,000	-	\$3,000
Cash	Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter	K-12 Scholarship Support for South Metro Schools	Potential	\$3,000	-	\$3,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$576,000	-	\$576,000
			Funds Total	\$576,000	-	\$576,000

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [9ff21593-77c.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

This map shows the vast reach and impact that Minnesota's residential environmental learning centers had through this grant...

Financial Capacity

File: [a6c10e6c-69b.pdf](#)

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Osprey Wilds Board Minutes 02.25 - LCCMR Board Resolution on Page 3 Highlighted in Yellow	9dc64734-ace.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
Representative Davids Letter of Support	ac49a35a-02e.pdf
Senator Rarick Letter of Support	164dc1f6-f0a.pdf
MN Department of Education Letter of Support	48cd0f7e-326.pdf
Background Check Form	cddeac68-eb6.pdf
Resolution of Support	d0722409-bae.docx
October 27, 2022 Work Plan Update	2485e047-da7.pdf
Osprey Wilds K-12 Postcard	d27c80ce-741.jpe
Wolf Ridge EAlmanac	e8843179-033.jpe
Eagle Bluff K-12 website	06595eba-602.jpe
Deep Portage website	e363ef16-5a0.jpe
Long Lake website	c3fe3456-70c.png
Osprey Wilds website	598075a3-9f2.png
Final Grant Summary	6474741c-85d.xlsx

Media Links

Title	Link
Sceince Museum of MN - Minnesota's Greatest Investments: Environmental Learning Centers	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5YwGtbFp_5A

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

Due to the project being reduced from the initial request of \$1,800,000 to \$1,602,000, as well as the rising cost of inflation, we have reduced our minimum number of students served from 25,000 to 20,000, and the corresponding minimum number of instruction hours from 375,000 to 300,000, and time onsite from 1.2 million hours to 960,000 hours.

Additional Acknowledgements and Conditions:

The following are acknowledgements and conditions beyond those already included in the above workplan:

Do you understand and acknowledge the ENRTF repayment requirements if the use of capital equipment changes?

N/A

Do you understand that travel expenses are only approved if they follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?

N/A

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?

No

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

N/A

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?

N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

Do you understand that a named service contract does not constitute a funder-designated subrecipient or approval of a sole-source contract? In other words, a service contract entity is only approved if it has been selected according to the contracting rules identified in state law and policy for organizations that receive ENRTF funds through direct appropriations, or in the DNR's reimbursement manual for non-state organizations. These rules may include competitive bidding and prevailing wage requirements

N/A

Work Plan Amendments

Amendment ID	Request Type	Changes made on the following pages	Explanation & justification for Amendment Request (word limit 75)	Date Submitted	Approved	Date of LCCMR Action
1	Amendment Request	• Activities and Milestones • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Budget - Other	It is proving more challenging than we hoped to award scholarships to K-12 schools for this grant. Although we are making progress, we are behind schedule. Laurentian Environmental Center continuing to remain closed is also hurting our ability to reach the numbers we would like. For these reasons, we would like to broaden our ability to award these funds for K-12 students to multiple capacities, adding youth and family programs to K-12 schools.	April 19, 2023	Yes	April 25, 2023
2	Amendment Request	• Other • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Budget - Other	Deep Portage is concerned it won't distribute all of the money they have allocated, so we plan to redistribute it to Eagle Bluff and Wolf Ridge, who will be able to dispense those scholarship funds. Osprey Wilds is adjusting the amount we have to go more towards schools rather than scholarships for camps.	September 4, 2024	Yes	October 16, 2024
3	Amendment Request	• Attachments • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Budget - Other	Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center ended up not using \$7,840 in scholarship funds, and we would like to allow Long Lake Conservation Center to use those funds for school trips that occurred before June 30.	October 31, 2025	Yes	November 3, 2025

Status Update Reporting

Final Status Update August 14, 2025

Date Submitted: October 31, 2025

Date Approved: November 3, 2025

Overall Update

We successfully surpassed our goals for K-12 participants, instruction hours and onsite hours for this grant. Together, we served more than 23,000 K-12 learners from 414 school visits, providing over 360,000 instruction hours and over 1,000,000 onsite hours at our campuses. Thanks to LCCMR's support, tens of thousands of K-12 students got to experience nature at an accredited residential environmental learning center and have valuable environmental experiences. We found that there was still more financial need than we could meet from interested schools, which speaks to the importance of this funding, and the desire for schools to attend.

Data collected from the RELCs shows that for attending K-12 students:

- 85% tried something new
- 74% challenged themselves
- 50% developed a deeper appreciation of nature
- 42% discovered a new hobby
- 40% made new friends

Final attendance numbers for the RELCs were:

Deep Portage

Participants: 4,105

School Visits: 57

Eagle Bluff

Participants: 6,867

School Visits: 97

Long Lake

Participants: 4,297

School Visits: 85

Osprey Wilds

Participants: 3,850

School Visits: 103

Wolf Ridge

Participants: 3,942

School Visits: 72

Total Participants: 23,061

Total School Visits: 414

Activity 1

Teachers consistently reported that time at Minnesota's RELCs shifted students' relationship with the environment from

passive observation to active engagement.

Increased Environmental Awareness – Students began noticing natural systems they had previously overlooked. Teachers commented that many started naming plants, asking questions about habitats, and recognizing how human actions affect nature. Teachers consistently noted that instructors helped students notice and understand their surroundings more deeply, from observing wildlife behaviors to connecting class concepts with real-world examples. Instructors were praised for prompting reflection and relating lessons to students’ daily lives, helping them see how human choices impact nature.

Stronger Emotional Connection to Nature – Immersive outdoor experiences made students care about the outdoors in a new way. Even students who were typically disengaged in class showed excitement and calm when outside. Students’ curiosity was sparked through hands-on, sensory-rich activities. Teachers frequently commented on how even hesitant or disconnected students became engaged once outdoors. Several schools noted that students returned home eager to share what they learned and to explore nature more on their own.

Growing Sense of Responsibility and Ownership – Several teachers reported students expressing a desire to “take care of nature”. The trip sparked pride in learning outdoor skills.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Dissemination

Work continues with every center sharing the news through social media, Google Ad words, printed materials, conferences, flyers, phone calls and emails. We will each be sharing our overall numbers of K-12 learners served with our audiences to highlight the tremendous success that this grant was able to achieve.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update March 1, 2025

Date Submitted: April 11, 2025

Date Approved: April 17, 2025

Overall Update

We are increasingly successful in providing scholarships to K-12 students and schools on a needs-basis. Our work is increasing as we are getting more schools signing on and taking scholarships and we exceeded our goal of 20,000 learners with four months left on the grant. Through Feb 28, we had served 20,114 learners.

We had an issue with an accidental duplicate expense request from Deep Portage Learning Center. It was a school (Northview) that came Sep 30 - Oct 2, and was submitted for reimbursement for the end of September reimbursement period. Deep Portage then included that school in the Oct-Nov reimbursement section and were reimbursed again as it overlapped into Oct, and didn't catch it initially with their reimbursement request. Their Executive Director caught that error later and alerted me and LCCMR. Deep Portage removed the duplicate amount (-\$3,454) off their current reimbursement request to correct the issue. I am now checking each center's invoices to ensure they do not show up on multiple reimbursements with the same school and dates, looking closely at the end of month/beginning of month periods that coincide with reimbursements. All other center directors are also doing so.

Activity 1

Sep 1, 2024 - Feb 28, 2025

Eagle Bluff:

Sep 1- Feb 28

Total Schools: 17 schools

Total Participants: 1941

Total Scholarships: \$62,176

OVERALL Schools: 72

OVERALL Participants: 5,769

OVERALL Scholarships: \$302,187.4

Deep Portage:

Sep 1-Feb 28

Total Schools: 27

Total Participants: 2347

Total Scholarships: \$109,048.49

OVERALL Schools: 44

OVERALL Participants: 4220

OVERALL Scholarships: \$185,436.49

Long Lake:

Sep 1- Feb 28

Total Schools: 31

Total Participants: 1632

Total Scholarships: \$136,183.94

OVERALL Schools: 92

OVERALL Participants: 4,801

OVERALL Scholarships: \$320,400

Osprey Wilds:

Sep 1- Feb 28

Total schools - 20

Total participants - 909

Total Scholarships - \$66,917.15

OVERALL Schools: 72

OVERALL Participants: 2,718

OVERALL Scholarships: \$199,035.64

Wolf Ridge:

Sep 1- Feb 28

Total Schools: 25

Total Participants: 1,397

Total Scholarships: \$123,705

OVERALL Schools: 57

OVERALL Participants: 2,606

OVERALL Scholarships: \$293,113

GROUP TOTALS 7/1/22-2/28/25:

Total Schools: 337

Total Participants: 20,114

Total Scholarships: \$1,300,172.53

Activity 2

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Dissemination

Work continues with every center sharing the news through social media, Google Ad words, printed materials, conferences, flyers, phone calls and emails. We think that because of these efforts, our rate of awarding scholarships is dramatically picking up and allowing us to provide more scholarships each reporting period.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update September 1, 2024

Date Submitted: October 15, 2024

Date Approved: October 16, 2024

Overall Update

We are increasingly successful in providing scholarships to K-12 students and schools on a needs-basis. Our work is increasing as we are getting more schools signing on and taking scholarships. Our pace of awarding scholarships dramatically increased and we look forward to surpassing our student numbers served goal in this final year 3 of 3 of the grant.

We have been conducting student surveys and some findings so far based from students indicate:

91% tried something new

77% challenged themselves

62% improved their teamwork skills

55% developed an appreciation for nature

61% developed a new hobby

Also being conducted is a Positive Youth Development scale. It includes 7 questions utilizing an 11 point scale to rate how students felt about themselves before and after their trip. Data is showing a statistically significant average increase in PYD of 0.91.

Questions include:

I can achieve the goals I set for myself

I am happy with myself most of the time

I believe I can impact the world around me

Caring for other people is important to me

I do the right thing even when nobody is around

I feel supported and valued by people

I give back to my community

Activity 1

We have surpassed our year 2 students served goal of 8,000 K-12 students served, by serving 11,888 students. We continue to build our numbers each year, serving more students, and are poised to exceed our year 3 target and overall target for students served in the grant.

Eagle Bluff:

April 1-September 1, 2024

Total Schools: 21

Total Participants: 1058

Total Scholarships: \$70,810

OVERALL Schools: 55

OVERALL Participants: 3,828

OVERALL Scholarships: \$240,011.40

Deep Portage:

April 1-September 1, 2024

Total Schools: 5

Total Participants: 588

Total Scholarships: \$27,964

OVERALL Schools: 17

OVERALL Participants: 1873 participants

OVERALL Scholarships: \$76,388

Long Lake:

April 1-September 1, 2024

Total Schools: 23

Total Participants: 1063

Total Scholarships: \$79,586.16

OVERALL Schools: 61

OVERALL Participants: 3169

OVERALL Scholarships: \$209,884.16

Osprey Wilds:

April 1-September 1, 2024

Total Schools: 19

Total Participants: 547

Total Scholarships: \$47,547.03

OVERALL Schools: 52

OVERALL Participants: 1,809

OVERALL Scholarships: \$132,118.49

Wolf Ridge:

April 1-September 1, 2024

Total Schools: 13

Total Participants: 891

Total Scholarships: \$95,235

OVERALL Schools: 32

OVERALL Participants: 1209

Activity 2

We have provided 21 youth & family camp individual scholarships, totalling \$6,968 in funds. We do not anticipate allocating any more scholarships to youth and family camps, as we have a greater need to provide K-12 school scholarships moving forward.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Dissemination

The RELCs are consistent with what we stated in our Dissemination Description. The word is getting out for the grant opportunity through all of the mediums we stated.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update March 1, 2024

Date Submitted: April 30, 2024

Date Approved: April 30, 2024

Overall Update

We are being successful in providing scholarships to K-12 students and schools on a needs-basis. Our work is increasing as we are getting more schools signing on and taking scholarships. Our pace of awarding scholarships dramatically increased during the last status period compared to the previous two reporting periods. We anticipate the remainder of this spring and next school year to be even busier as schools continue to find out about the opportunity, and schools that were approached during the beginning of this grant period now have had enough time to book and plan for future trips.

Activity 1

We reached the following numbers through the last reporting period as a collective group:

Deep Portage:

Recent Update Sep 23 - Mar -24

Total Schools: 11

Total Participants: 1153

Total Scholarships: \$41,534

OVERALL Schools: 12

OVERALL Participants: 1,285 participants

OVERALL Scholarships: \$48,374

Eagle Bluff:

Sep 23-Mar 24

Total Schools: 14

Total Participants: 1,555

Total Scholarships: \$77,663

OVERALL Schools: 34

OVERALL Participants: 2,770

OVERALL Scholarships: \$169,201.40

Long Lake:

Total Schools : 29

Total Participants: 1,651 (1,396 students, 255 adults)

Total Scholarships: \$107,620.31

OVERALL Schools: 38

OVERALL Participants: 2,106

OVERALL Scholarships: \$127,398.29

Osprey Wilds:

Sep 23 - Mar 24

Total Schools: 9

Total Participants: 425

Total Scholarships: \$31,433.73

OVERALL Schools: 33

OVERALL Participants: 1,262

OVERALL Scholarships: \$84,571.46

Wolf Ridge:

Total Schools: 13

Total Participants: 640

Total Scholarships: \$47,495

OVERALL Schools: 16

OVERALL Participants: 859

OVERALL Scholarships: \$57,084

TOTAL GROUP SEP 23- MAR 24 STATUS:

Total Schools: 76

Total Participants: 5,424

Total Scholarships: \$305,746.04

OVERALL GRANT PERIOD

OVERALL Schools: 133 schools

OVERALL Participants: 8,282

OVERALL Scholarships: \$486,629.15

We've reached our Year 2 goal: 8,000 learners

Activity 2

We have not reached as many youth campers as our budget allows. We have found more need for school scholarships at this point. To date, we have awarded less than 20 youth camper scholarships, and will likely need to request an amendment to reduce the number of camp scholarships and dollars allocated and shift those to more school scholarships.

Dissemination

Work continues with every center sharing the news through social media, Google Ad words, printed materials, conferences, flyers, phone calls and emails. We think that because of these efforts, our rate of awarding scholarships is dramatically picking up and allowing us to provide more scholarships each reporting period.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update September 1, 2023

Date Submitted: October 24, 2023

Date Approved: October 24, 2023

Overall Update

Our impact reaching K-12 schools and awarding scholarships has picked up substantially from our last report, and we continue to get new inquiries and bookings to award scholarships to more schools. During this reporting period, we served 1,938 K-12 learners, and 10 youth camp participants. To date, we have served 2,652 K-12 school learners, and 10 youth campers from the beginning of the grant.

Activity 1

Deep Portage:

Total Schools Received Scholarships: 1

Total K-12 School Participants: 132

Classes Taught: 65

Total K-12 School Scholarships Awarded: \$6,840

Eagle Bluff:

Total Schools Received Scholarships: 14

Total K-12 School Participants: 825

Classes Taught: 253

Total K-12 School Scholarships Awarded: \$52,753

Total Summer Camp Participants Received Scholarships : 6

Total Summer Camp Scholarships Awarded: \$1,975

Long Lake:

Total Schools Received Scholarships: 5

Total K-12 School Participants: 262

Classes Taught: 164

Total K-12 School Scholarships Awarded: \$9,453.29

Osprey Wilds:

Total Schools Received Scholarships: 16

Total K-12 School Participants: 500

Classes Taught: 237

Total K-12 School Scholarships Awarded: \$31,691.49

Total Summer Camp Participants Received Scholarships: 4

Total Summer Camp Scholarships Awarded: \$1612.50

Wolf Ridge:

Total Schools Received Scholarships: 3

Total K-12 School Participants: 219

Classes Taught: 88

Total K-12 School Scholarships Awarded: \$9,589

TOTAL:

Total Schools Received Scholarships: 39

Total K-12 School Participants: 1,938

Classes Taught: 807

Total K-12 School Scholarships Awarded: \$110326.78

Activity 2

We anticipate providing more camp scholarships in 2024 as we will have a full year to disseminate that information. This summer, Eagle Bluff and Osprey Wilds served 10 campers through scholarships.

Total Summer Camp Participants Received Scholarships: 10

Total Summer Camp Scholarships Awarded: \$3,587.50

Dissemination

The centers are continuing to share information of our scholarship opportunities through social media, Google ads, print materials, conferences and word of mouth. Our websites have the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund logo on our K-12 and youth camp pages. Our scholarship forms state "Funding for our scholarship program was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources

Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)."

Status Update Reporting

Status Update March 1, 2023

Date Submitted: March 30, 2023

Date Approved: March 30, 2023

Overall Update

We have begun awarding scholarships and hosting schools at our sites for multi-day environmental learning experiences.

Activity 1

During the period of October 27 - March 1, Minnesota's residential environmental learning centers served 13 schools and 714 students through ENRTF awarded scholarships. Schools that participated at Eagle Bluff included:

Midway Star Academy
Chelsea Heights
Hennepin MS
Highland Park Spanish Immersion
Alice Smith Elementary
Farnsworth Aerospace

Classes taught to those schools in attendance included:

Animal Signs
Rock Climbing (3)
High Ropes (7)
Reptiles (2)
Raptor Physics
Eagle Bluff Olympics
Campfire (5)
Archery (3)
Root River Hike
Raptor Care (2)
Night Hike (5)
Group Challenges (4)
Unhuggables
Settler Life
Ice Age
Raptor Force (3)
Timberattler
Team Navigation
Legends in the Sky
GPS

Schools that participated at Osprey Wilds included:

Hinckley Elementary
JJ Hill Montessori
Hamline Elementary
Crest View Elementary

Volunteers of America
Champlin Elementary
Brimhall Elementary

The following classes were taught to those schools in attendance:

Animal Habitat	2
Animal Signs	3
Archery	8
Climbing Wall	14
Creepy Crawly Creatures	2
Cross Country Ski	1
Ecosystem Engineers	2
Forest Explorers	2
High Ropes	5
Hinckley Fire	1
Leap, Creep, Slither	1
Low Ropes	8
MN Wildlife	2
Northwood Niches	4
Ojibwe Hike	1
Orienteering	5
Predator/Prey	15
Quillwork	

Dissemination

Each RELC has been actively promoting the opportunities through social media, electronic and printed newsletters, postcards, booths at education conferences, and more.

Additional Status Update Reporting

Additional Status Update November 29, 2022

Date Submitted: December 19, 2022

Date Approved: December 20, 2022

Overall Update

Minnesota's RELCs began promoting the scholarships available through this grant beginning July 1, and awarding scholarships to schools who submitted scholarship applications shortly thereafter. Several schools awarded scholarships attended RELCs prior to October 27. Below is a summary for each RELC.

Activity 1

Deep Portage Learning Center:

None

Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center:

Midway Star Academy, Oct. 26-28, 43 participants (32 students, 11 adults), \$2,150 scholarship

Laurentian Environmental Center:

None

Long Lake Conservation Center:

Braham Elementary School, Sep. 26-27, 58 participants (47 students, 11 adults), \$2,477.09 scholarship

Hill City Elementary School, Oct. 17-19, 18 participants (15 students, 3 adults), \$950 scholarship

McGregor Elementary School, Oct. 17-19, 31 participants (25 students, 6 adults), \$1,848 scholarship

Rippleside Elementary School, Oct. 17-19, 86 participants (75 students, 9 adults), \$5,049 scholarship

Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center:

Metro Deaf School, Sep. 7-9, 53 participants (41 students, 12 adults), \$1,703.15 scholarship

Cannon River STEM School, Oct. 24-26, 42 participants (30 students, 12 adults), \$2,700 scholarship

Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center:

New London-Spicer Middle School, Oct. 3-7, 135 participants (111 students, 24 adults), \$3,885 scholarship

Total Schools Receiving Scholarships: 8

Total Participants: 466

Total Scholarships Awarded: \$20,762.24

Dissemination

The RELCs are consistent with what we stated in our Dissemination Description. The word is getting out for the grant opportunity through all of the mediums we stated.