

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2016 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 120-C

Connecting Every 4th Grader in State Parks

Category: C. Environmental Education

Total Project Budget: \$ 508,740

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 2 years, July 2016 to June 2018

Summary:

Connect Minnesota 4th graders to the outdoors and inspire a new generation to experience their states natural, cultural and recreation heritage, complimenting the NPS Every Kid in a Park program.

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Sponsoring Organization: MN DNR

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Web Address mndnr.gov

Location

Region: Statewide

County Name: Statewide

City / Township:

Alternate Text for Visual:

N/A

_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ TOTAL	_____ %



PROJECT TITLE: Connecting every 4th Grader to State Parks

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

This project will help connect 4th graders throughout the state to the outdoors and inspire a new generation of Minnesotans to experience their state’s natural, cultural and recreational heritage. In school year 2015-2016, the NPS will be initiating Every Kid in a Park (<http://www.doi.gov/news/blog/lets-get-every-kid-in-a-park.cfm>) program nationwide for the National Park system. This complementary program would expand this opportunity for every Minnesota 4th grader a state park visit, through bus grants, the following year. Fourth grade curriculum is an easy fit to park resources, and many existing activities are suited for this grade.

MN state parks and trails users are older and less diverse than the general population of MN. Because 4th graders are part of the younger, more diverse population, this program will reach the next generation of park stewards.

The goal of the program is to introduce the next generation to the natural, cultural and recreational resources of our state’s parks and trails. The goal is to provide every 4th grader an opportunity to enjoy their parks and trails. By exposing this age group to positive experiences in state parks now, they are more likely to visit again and to care about state parks and our state resources as they get older.

Through a granting system, we will provide funds to cover the cost of transportation for 4th grade classes to visit one of the state parks or trails near their school. Depending on the location and scheduling, staff may be available. In locations without staff, self-guided learning opportunities will be available. A packet of pre-visit and on-site activities will be assembled from pre-existing curriculums.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1: *Program Set-up for 4th grade visits to state parks*

Budget: \$48,740

Outcome	Completion Date
<i>1. Hire CCM specialist to set up and manage 1st year of program.</i>	<i>July 2016</i>
<i>2. Initiate work with partners to promote and carry-out program.</i>	<i>July 2016</i>
<i>3. Set up grant program</i>	<i>September 2016</i>
<i>4. Promote field trip opportunities to schools and fourth-grade teachers</i>	<i>August 2016</i>
<i>5. Design pre-visit and on-site activity packet</i>	<i>September 2016</i>

Activity 2: *4th grader visits to state parks*

Budget: \$460,000

Outcome	Completion Date
<i>1. Continue promoting program into second year, if unused grant funds are available.</i>	<i>May 2018</i>
<i>2. Manage and monitor grant program and program participation</i>	<i>June 2018</i>
<i>3. Wrap up program and report results</i>	<i>June 2018</i>



III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

The DNR Team will include:

- The interpretive services team (Jennifer Conrad, regional naturalists and park/area naturalists), a CCM specialist (to be hired) will work to set up program and contact potential partners (NPS, Loppet, school system, USFWS and Wilderness Inquiry). No partners, except the schools, will receive LCCMR funds through this project.
- Park and trails staff will also carry out the proposed activities, as schools will be scheduling and providing logistics for on-site visits at the unit level. Staff time will be essential to the success of this program. At units without naturalists, the program will benefit from park managers/assistant manager/area supervisors making time to provide a brief presentation to the classes.
- District Supervisor(s)

Potential Partners (or work in collaboration with):

- Schools will receive funds to cover bussing costs through a grant process. They will receive the opportunity to meet curriculum requirements through on-site, outside activities. Curriculum requirements that could be met for 4th graders in the parks might include: reading, writing (essays and research), U.S history, geography, map skills, earth science, water cycle, healthy habits, technology (research skills).
- The NPS currently offers curriculum-based interpretive programming on MNDNR parks and trails, and the bus grants could be an enticement for more classes to participate. Additionally, the proposal is modeled after the *NPS's Every Kid in a Park* program.
- Loppet currently works with schools in Minneapolis, a high population area, so there is potential to connect with an already existing school recreation program.
- Wilderness Inquiry provides programming on state water trails and in state parks (Fort Snelling), so there may be opportunities to mutually increase participation in state park programs.

B. Project Impact and Long-Term Strategy

The fourth-graders who participate in this program will have a positive, memorable experience with the natural cultural and recreational resources in the parks they own. Teachers will be able to take the curriculum out of the classroom and into the real world.

Outcomes from this 2 year project will inform future outreach and educational efforts. A number of our park units fill to capacity for programming during the school year, while others have the capacity to expand. While we expect that the DNR will not be able to provide bussing grants to 4th grade classes beyond this program, Friends groups may have an interest in providing some to the schools most in need of this kind of financial help.

C. Timeline Requirements

2 years

While our goal is to reach all 4th graders in the first year (the September 2016 – June 2017 academic year), we expect more classes will enroll in the second academic year.

2016 Detailed Project Budget

Project Title: *Every 4th Grader in State Parks*

INSTRUCTIONS AND TEMPLATE (1 PAGE LIMIT)

Attach budget, in MS-EXCEL format, to your "2016 LCCMR Proposal Submission Form".

(1-page limit, single-sided, 10 pt. font minimum. Retain bold text and DELETE all instructions typed in italics. ADD OR DELETE ROWS AS NECESSARY. If budget item row is not applicable put "N/A" or delete it. All of "Other Funds" section must be filled out.)

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET [Insert # of years for project] years

BUDGET ITEM (See "Guidance on Allowable Expenses", p. 13)	AMOUNT	
Personnel: N/A	\$	-
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts: Minimal printing need provided by MinCor. CCM specialist for 1st year.	\$	40,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: N/A	\$	-
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements): N/A	\$	-
Travel: Be specific. Generally, only in-state travel essential to completing project activities can be included. Bus costs to transport 4th grade classes to parks reimbursed to schools through grants.	\$	459,500
Additional Budget Items: In this column, list any additional budget items that do not fit above categories. List by item(s) or item type(s) and explain how number was determined One row per type/category. Advertising in the Field Trip Library.	\$	500
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$	505,835

V. OTHER FUNDS (This entire section must be filled out. Do not delete rows. Indicate "N/A" if row is not applicable.)

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: N/A	\$ -	N/A
Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: N/A	\$ -	N/A
In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: Park manager and interpretive staff time to provide programs and talks to visiting school groups. (2800 classes * 30 minutes of staff time * \$20/hour = \$28,000 pending). Promotions through DNR media (facebook, website, Twitter, and press releases): estimated value is \$10,000. Visitor Services Supervisor staff time for project estimated at 160 hours.	\$ 43,000	Pending
Funding History: N/A	\$ -	N/A
Remaining \$ From Current ENRTF Appropriation: N/A	\$ -	N/A

**DNR Direct & Necessary Cost Calculator
ML16 ENRTF and OHF Proposals - Additive Model**

Updated April 1, 2015

Fill in yellow cells to calculate services your program needs. All other cells are formulaic and locked.

Division: PAT

Project Title: **Every 4th Grader in** State Parks

Funding Request (before D&N)	Fee Title or Easement Acquisition	Pass-through Grants	Single-source Contract		Metric	Metric Value	Number of Units	Total D&N
\$ 500,000	\$ -		\$ 40,000	People Support	FTE	\$ 1,455	0	\$ -
				Safety Support	FTE	\$ 343	0	\$ -
				Financial Support	All Other Costs	\$ 0.014	\$460,000	\$ 6,440
				Communication Support	Allotments	\$ 1,236	1	\$ 1,236
				IT Support	IT User ID	\$ 2,794	0	\$ -
				Planning Support	Allotments	\$ 829	1	\$ 829
				Procurement Support	Allotments	\$ 235	1	\$ 235
				Division Direct (project)	Cost/dollar (.0162)			\$ -
				Division Direct (program)	Cost/dollar (.0327)			\$ -
				Total Direct & Necessary: \$ 8,740				

Total Project Costs: \$ 508,740

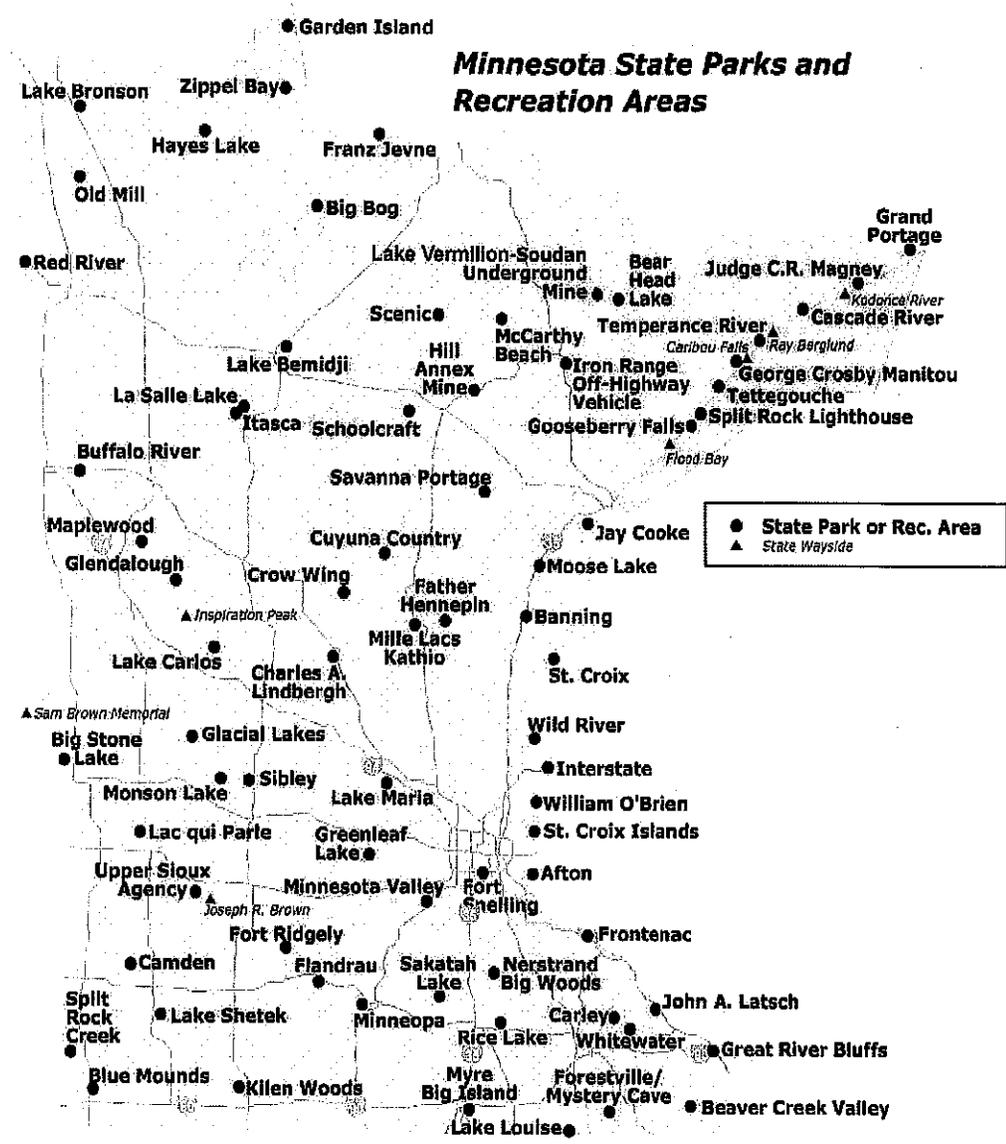
Personnel Necessary to Support Proposal						
Position Title	FTE's Funded	Years Funded	User ID's Required	Years Funded	FTE-Year Units	User ID Units
					0	0
					0	0
					0	0
					0	0
					0	0
					0	0
					0	0
SUM:					0	0

Number of Allotments Required 1

Notes on calculations

- People Support: FY15 HR Budget/2013-14 March/March FTE
- Safety Support: FY15 Safety Budget/2013-14 March/March FTE
- Financial Support: Source: FY15 OMBS Budget/FY14 Appropriations & Dedicated Revenue Budget
- Communication Support: FY15 OCO Budget/2014 Allotments
- Computer Support: FY15 MN.IT Services @ DNR SLA Budget (Governance Subtotal + IT Server Initiative/2013-14 March/March FTE)
- Planning Services: FY15 Planning Budget/2014 Allotments
- Procurement Support: FY15 Procurement Budget/2014 Allotments
- Division Support: Cost/dollar (from D&N Cost Analysis)

Find a state park by location



Connecting Every 4th Grader to State Parks

Project Manager Qualifications

Jennifer Conrad is the Visitor Services Supervisor in the division of Parks and Trails at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Project Organization Description

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources works to integrate and sustain the interdependent values of a healthy environment, a sustainable economy, and livable communities. DNR's integrated resource management strategy shares stewardship responsibility with citizens and partners to manage for multiple interests. DNR protects the state's natural heritage by conserving the diversity of natural lands, waters, and fish and wildlife that provide the foundation for Minnesota's recreational and natural resource-based economy (M.S. 84, M.S. 97A). DNR manages natural lands such as forests, wetlands, and native prairies; maintains healthy populations of fish and wildlife; and protects rare plant and animal communities throughout the state. DNR manages the state's water resources, sustaining healthy waterways and ground water resources. DNR provides access to enrich public outdoor recreational opportunities, such as hunting, fishing, wildlife-watching, camping, skiing, hiking, biking, motorized recreation, and conservation education through a state outdoor recreation system that includes parks, trails, wildlife management areas, scientific and natural areas, water trails, and other facilities (M.S. 86A). DNR supports natural resource-based economies, managing state forest lands for multiple forest values (M.S. 89), ensuring the maximum long-term economic return from school trust lands (M.S. 127A), and providing other economic opportunities in a manner consistent with sound natural resource conservation and management principles.

