



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2024 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2024-111

Proposal Title: Increasing Access to Environmental Education Youth Camps

Project Manager Information

Name: Bryan Wood

Organization: Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center

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Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center will provide meaningful, hands-on environmental education learning opportunities to underserved rural and metro area children through our day-use and residential summer camps.

Funds Requested: \$163,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30, 2027

LCCMR Funding Category: Small Projects (H)

Secondary Category: Environmental Education (C)

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

Narrative

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

Children today are increasingly deprived of time in nature, spending an average of 7-12 hours looking at a screen, and only 7 minutes outdoors daily, resulting in a lack of awareness, understanding and contact with the environment. For students low on the socio-economic spectrum, this is further compounded as there are typically no outdoor areas accessible 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 day and residential youth camps are not affordable for hundreds of thousands of children. By offering camp scholarships for children and families who need financial support, we will provide meaningful hands-on nature experiences to a minimum of 500 children. Every child experience will include multiple learning sessions that are directly focused upon the learning outcomes of the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund's (ENRTF) constitutionally declared goals and objectives. We are collaborating with the Multicultural Kids Network, a Maple Grove, MN based 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization that provides support and information to African families merican families their children in the United States. Many of these families have limited access to resources within their adopted community.

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 youth and family camp fees as needed, with each child spending a minimum of three days (24 hours) at Osprey Wilds, including a minimum of 18 instruction hours. Residential camps would be up to five days (96 hours) at Osprey Wilds, with 40 instruction hours. Our camps range in price from \$175 - \$600, based on duration, age level and learning materials needed. We will reach underserved regional rural populations of Pine, Kanabec and Carlton county children, as well as underserved metro area children showing a clear financial need through our scholarship application process. There is an urgent demand for financial support for these immersive, nature-based learning experiences. Without scholarship support, Minnesota will not reach its ENRTF goals with our younger citizens. As an accredited school, Osprey Wilds provides evidence-based, hands-on outdoor programs that increase the number of children recreating and learning outdoors. Due to the nature of these multi-day camp learning experiences where the level of engagement is very high, learning is such that it creates lifelong memories, which are the basis for developing the outdoor ethic Minnesotans are famous for. All Osprey Wilds staff have completed and passed 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 500 Minnesota youth multi-day learning experiences at Osprey Wilds.

By giving children extended time in nature, we help Minnesota achieve ENRTF's goals and help children 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, like the former K-12 student-participants now employed at RELCs.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Increasing Access to Environmental Education Youth Camps

Activity Budget: \$163,000

Activity Description:

Provide scholarship funds on a needs-basis through scholarship process and cover transportation for youth-based camps at Osprey Wilds, reaching a minimum of 500 Minnesota youth through multi-day environmental learning camp experiences. We will promote our camp opportunities to our network schools, through social media and digital and print advertisements, as well as groups specifically serving underserved communities including Multicultural Kids Network, Outdoor Afro, Melanin in Motion, BIPOC Outdoors Twin Cities, and Outdoor Latino Minnesota. We will promote this funding opportunity through our authorized charter schools, where we have 40 schools broadly across Minnesota serving over 9,000 students, of which 67% are BIPOC students, and 25% English Language Learners.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Serve minimum of 125 children by end of year 1	June 30, 2025
Serve minimum of 175 children by end of year 2	June 30, 2026
Serve minimum of 200 children by end of year 3	June 30, 2027

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Samba Fall	Multicultural Kids Network	Executive Director	No

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?

By broadening our reach, Osprey Wilds will build more community networks opening more funding avenues to help families attend our environmental education focused programs. We plan to reach out to Outdoor Afro, Melanin in Motion, BIPOC Outdoors Twin Cities, and Outdoor Latino Minnesota and our network of 40 authorized charter schools to promote these learning opportunities. We will leverage ENRTF dollars to secure other financial support from donors and foundations. Osprey Wilds is one of the significant employers in Pine County, with a staff of nearly 30 employees.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Increasing K-12 Student Learning to Achieve ENRTF's Goals	M.L. 2022, , Chp. 94, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 05b	\$1,602,000

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Bryan Wood

Job Title: Executive Director

Provide description of the project manager's qualifications to manage the proposed project.

Bryan Wood has been Executive Director at Osprey Wilds since 2009. During that time, he has managed over \$2.5 million in awarded grants, including over \$1.7 million in ENRTF grants.

Organization: Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center

Organization Description:

Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center (formerly Audubon Center of the North Woods) is a private, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization located on 783 acres near Sandstone in Pine County, MN whose mission is "to instill a connection and commitment to the environment in people of all communities through experiential learning". Since 1969, this has been accomplished with a wide variety of environmental learning programs for audiences K-12 to seniors. Each year more than 4,000 K-12 students attend Osprey Wilds for residential environmental learning experiences, participating in outdoor learning on our 783-acre campus.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
							Sub Total	-
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Providing shuttle transportation for three years of camps locally, and to and from the metro area. Estimate 20,000 miles total. Rate at standard federal mileage rate of \$.655/mile	Provide transportation					\$13,000
							Sub Total	\$13,000
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								

							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
		Camp Scholarships	Financial Support					\$150,000
							Sub Total	\$150,000
							Grand Total	\$163,000

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
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
Cash	Osprey Wilds - Bids for Kids Fundraiser	Scholarship Support	Secured	\$35,000
Cash	Caroline Vernon - Donor	Scholarship Support	Secured	\$10,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$45,000
			Funds Total	\$45,000

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [e2f6f91e-cdc.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

This visual aid by the Children and Nature Network illustrates some of the many cognitive, behavioral and social-emotional benefits children experience when spending time in nature....

Financial Capacity

File: [ddb2c156-064.pdf](#)

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Osprey Wilds Board Resolution	acdf4d13-5af.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

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

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

Does your project include the design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other capital asset costing \$10,000 or more?

No

Do you propose using an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to conduct a project that provides children's services, as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 299C.61 Subd.7?

No

