



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2026 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2026-099

Proposal Title: Bringing Environmental Education and Outdoor Recreation to K-12 Schools

Project Manager Information

Name: Bryan Wood

Organization: Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center

Office Telephone: (320) 245-2648

Email: wood@ospreywilds.org

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Osprey Wilds will educate over 7,500 K-12 students through outreach programs to K-12 schools that address LCCMR's funding priorities of resiliency, water, education & outdoor recreation, fish & wildlife, energy, & land.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$192,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30, 2029

LCCMR Funding Category: Small Projects (G)

Secondary Category: Education and Outdoor Recreation (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.

For many K-12 schools, an offsite field trip to a nature center or environmental learning center is not an option due to factors such as district-wide policies prohibiting field trips, lack of time, lack of staffing, lack of transportation, and lack of funding. Osprey Wilds plans to remove the social, economic and physical barriers that prevent K-12 students from experiencing environmental education and outdoor recreation by quickly and efficiently bringing environmental education programs to them at their schools and nearby green spaces to provide hands-on, engaging educational programs. While Osprey Wilds has seen positive growth in our overnight K-12 programs at our Sandstone campus over the past several years, we have heard from many schools that a field trip to our site is simply not possible for their school, despite a desire to have those learning experiences. We want to meet schools where they are, and deliver environmental education in a manner that works for them by bringing our programs to their sites. The majority of our K-12 classes and programs are transportable and can be taught on K-12 school grounds. Our classes are aligned with LCCMR's funding priorities of resiliency, water, education & outdoor recreation, fish & wildlife, energy and land.

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 propose bringing a transportable curriculum of our K-12 classes to K-12 schools across Minnesota to deliver standards aligned, engaging and hands-on educational programs. There is a huge opportunity to connect with schools that are looking for enriching educational options for their students at their locations, without having to coordinate and plan an off-site field trip. We can bring our environmental education programs to them, reaching diverse audiences that otherwise would miss out on meaningful environmental learning opportunities. Osprey Wilds' staff will take our programs on the road to the schools and work with teachers to create engaging learning experiences for their students. Our classes range from one to two hours, and are designed to be taught for groups of 10-20 students, while our live animal ambassador and presentation-style classes can be taught for groups of 100 or more in larger auditorium/gymnasium/cafeteria settings. We would talk with teachers about the physical features, attributes & characteristics of their school grounds, including access to ball fields, school gardens, school forests, nearby greenspaces and waterways within walking distance, as well as indoor educational spaces and suggest which classes we feel would fit best with their specific logistical considerations.

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?

Our K-12 programs will educate a minimum of 7,500 Minnesota K-12 students on LCCMR's funding priorities of resiliency, water, education & outdoor recreation, fish and wildlife, energy and land. Through our programs, students will learn strategies that they can consider to protect, conserve, preserve and enhance our state's natural resources. We will ensure that every K-12 student learning experience addresses a minimum of one of LCCMR's six funding priorities.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Prepare for and Promote our Education & Outdoor Recreation outreach K-12 classes

Activity Budget: \$7,000

Activity Description:

We will purchase archery equipment to create a mobile archery range, as outlined in our budget, and begin marketing to schools about the three-year opportunity for in-school environmental education and outdoor recreation classes that we can bring to them. We will also reach out to schools that used to attend Osprey Wilds but no longer can due to changes in school field trip policies, and/or other factors that have caused them to stop attending.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Purchase Archery Equipment	August 31, 2026
Market these education and outdoor recreation programs to Minnesota K-12 schools	June 30, 2029

Activity 2: Deliver offsite K-12 environmental education and outdoor recreation programs

Activity Budget: \$185,000

Activity Description:

Educate a minimum of 7,500 K-12 learners through our offsite K-12 programs that address LCCMR's funding priorities of resiliency, water, education & outdoor recreation, fish and wildlife, energy, and land. The class offerings that schools could choose from are listed in our visual component attached file and include: A Bug's Life, Animal Habitats, Animal Signs, Bird Basics & Beyond, Creek Creatures, Creepy Crawly Creatures, Ecosystem Engineers, Predator/Prey, Wolves of the North Woods, Forest Explorers, Forest Stories, Maple Syruping, Landscape Disturbance Stories, Limnology, Clean Green Energy Solutions, Wind Power, Wonders of Winter, Archery, Fishing Fundamentals, Orienteering, Survivor, Total Team, Nature Journaling, Ojibwe Hike, Mazinigwaaso, The Hinckley Fire, Stargazing Stories, Voyageur Rendezvous, Northwoods Niche, Leap, Creep & Slither, and Minnesota Wildlife.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Educate a minimum of 2,000 K-12 students through outreach education & outdoor recreation classes	June 30, 2027
Educate a minimum of 2,500 K-12 students through outreach education & outdoor recreation classes	June 30, 2028
Educate a minimum of 3,000 K-12 students through outreach education & outdoor recreation classes	June 30, 2029

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?

Osprey Wilds is well positioned to expand our educational program delivery through consistent growth in our fundraising and scholarship support efforts. We believe this program can be a springboard for other funders to support these efforts as they see the successes we achieve, and the need for more flexible, cost-effective, and innovative ways to deliver environmental education to schools. We are actively increasing our organizational resources and capacity into pursuing other funding sources to continue to grow our financial assistance options to offer to K-12 schools.

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
Increasing Access to Environmental Education Youth Camps	M.L. 2024, , Chp. 83, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 05k	\$163,000

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 served as Executive Director of Osprey Wilds for 16 years. During that time, he has managed an annual of budget of approximately \$2.5 million, and a staff of 30+ employees. He has been the grant writer and administrator for four previous LCCMR grants totaling nearly \$1.9 million, with a pending 2025 LCCMR grant for \$3.92 million, and has secured other large grants including with the MN Land Trust (\$865,000), Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (\$866,000), two Payroll Protection Program grants (\$397,000) and numerous five-figure grants over the years. Bryan has worked at Osprey Wilds for 18 years and been involved with environmental education for over 22 years. Bryan has overseen the facilities operations of Osprey Wilds since 2009. During that time, Osprey Wilds has gone through many facilities projects including extensive additions of clean energy technologies, roofing projects, new buildings, the addition and infrastructure building of a regenerative farm, trail and road improvements, and regular attendance to repair, maintenance, and depreciation needs.

Organization: Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center

Organization Description:

Osprey Wilds has connected individuals to nature for over 55 years, and since our inception in 1969, we have educated more than 300,000 people (reaching more than 15,000 annually).

Much of our mission to instill a connection and commitment to the environment in people of all communities through experiential learning is accomplished through our accredited K-12 environmental education program, which delivers immersive, hands-on multi-day learning experiences to more than 3,000 students each year from more than 70 urban and rural schools across Minnesota.

At Osprey Wilds, our students, many of them experiencing nature for the first time, are offered more than thirty class options focused on life, earth, and physical sciences; natural and local cultural history; outdoor recreation and

adventure; team-building; personal growth; sustainable energy; and agriculture. Although most visit from the Twin Cities Metro, Osprey Wilds serves a range of students geographically, economically, and culturally. The majority are students of color.

While best known for our K-12 programs, authorizing charter schools has extended our mission, particularly to low-income students. With 36 charter schools, each with an environmental education focus, we are Minnesota's largest authorizer. More than 10,000 students annually acquire environmental literacy through our schools.

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								
	Equipment	Purchase archery equipment for a mobile NASP area. 20 bows @ \$122 each = \$2,440; 25 dozen arrows @ \$48/dozen = \$1,200; 8 34" targets @ \$177 each = \$1,416; Arrow curtain = \$705; 2 Repair Kits @ \$148 each = \$296; 10 Quivers = \$140; 2 sets of Bow Hangers @ \$321 each = \$642; 8 replacement target covers @ \$21 each = \$168	In order for us to offer archery at schools, we need to purchase a separate mobile archery course from the one at our site to take to schools					\$7,000
							Sub Total	\$7,000
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	100 overnight trips @ \$215/night = \$21,500, 100 site visits @ avg. 200 miles per visit average @ \$.67.mile = \$13,500	Travel costs associated with offsite K-12 program delivery - visiting schools in MN					\$35,000
							Sub Total	\$35,000

Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
		Offsite K-12 classes	The cost of us to deliver one K-12 class to one learning group of 10-20 students ranges from \$175-\$250, and the cost of a live animal ambassador program is \$350					\$150,000
							Sub Total	\$150,000
							Grand Total	\$192,000

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 Environmental Learning Center	To purchase van and cargo trailer for offsite programs	Secured	\$15,000
In-Kind	Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center	Marketing Efforts from Osprey Wilds Marketing & Communications Staff	Secured	\$10,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$25,000
			Funds Total	\$25,000

Total Project Cost: \$217,000

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [4b511ddd-622.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

The attached file lists Osprey Wilds' class offerings that we could bring to K-12 schools. It also shows which LCCMR funding priorities and specific focus areas our classes meet:

Resiliency: #2

Water: #3, #6

Education & Outdoor Recreation: #1, #2, #3, #4, #5

Fish & Wildlife: #4

Energy: #4, #6

Land: #2...

Financial Capacity

Title	File
MN Secretary of State Certificate of Good Standing	2dd6f51a-13d.pdf
2024 Audited Financials	ac0eede2-8eb.pdf
2024 Form 990	82ece267-a5f.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Board Resolution	b5725979-2fb.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

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?

Yes, I understand the Commissioner's Plan applies.

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

Does your project include the pre-design, design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other fixed capital asset costing \$10,000 or more or large-scale stream or wetland restoration?

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 as "the provision of care, treatment, education, training, instruction, or recreation to children")?

Yes

Do you certify that background checks are performed for background check crimes, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 299C.61, Subd. 2, on all employees, contractors, and volunteers who have or may have access to a child to whom children's services are provided by your organization?

Yes

Provide the name(s) and organization(s) of additional individuals assisting in the completion of this proposal:

Bryan Wood, Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center

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

