



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2026 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2026-458

Proposal Title: Adventure Classroom

Project Manager Information

Name: Bill Anderson-Horecka

Organization: Northern Star Council, Boy Scouts of America

Office Telephone: (612) 261-2405

Email: billa-h@northernstar.org

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Adventure Classroom--Bringing outdoor education opportunities directly to schools and encouraging them to continue their exploration of the outdoors in Minnesota's state parks.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$244,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30, 2027

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?

Region(s): Metro, NE,

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

Region(s): Metro, NE,

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Narrative

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

Our program is designed to address the lack of outdoor education in public schools, especially in elementary schools in the Twin Cities metro. Often these schools with high percentages of free and reduced lunch students can not afford to take multiple, let alone a single outdoor field trip during the school year. That lack of outdoor learning knowledge also trickles down to their parent/guardian, as they often can not experience the outdoors in a meaningful way due to lack of access, knowledge and cost barrier.

Having worked with elementary schools directly with other Scouting programs, we have heard from educators that they would like to have more field trip opportunities but do not have the funds for them. Being able to work with schools that historically do not have the funds or transportation for off site field trips by bringing the field trip to them helps increase the student's knowledge of the outdoors.

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.

Our solution is the Adventure Classroom program. Adventure Classroom (AC) brings the outdoor education field trip directly to the school. Northern Star staff work with elementary schools and bring established curricula that focuses on outdoor education designed for first and second graders. The students participate in a three hour program with their classmates, learning about conservation, outdoor skills and more. Students are also given a "take home" booklet and encouraged to complete it with a family member. Upon completion of the "take home" activities in the booklet, parents/guardians are able to submit their completed form online in order to continue their outdoor experiences with a Minnesota State Park vehicle pass and information about the state park system, including upcoming activities and events for families. State Park passes will be purchased through the Department of Natural Resources, working with their team for information about the park(s).

We envision the incentive of the Minnesota State Park pass will encourage families to explore more of the outdoor experiences Minnesota has to offer and provide continuing education on how to connect with the lands and waters of Minnesota from their own exploration as well as park programming offered.

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 goal is to provide the Adventure Classroom to 100 schools from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027. With a goal of 6,000 youth participating in the AC program.

Each youth would participate in the AC curriculum based on outdoor conservation, education and opportunities to continue their interest in the outdoors.

The goal of 6,000 youth served in the AC program would lead to the outcome of those youth learning about outdoor conservation, protection and preservation (some for the first time) with the impact of these youth continuing what they learned about at Adventure Classroom.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Adventure Classroom programs

Activity Budget: \$244,000

Activity Description:

Adventure Classroom is an “on-site field trip” for 1st and 2nd grade classrooms that include archery, nature and team-building curricula. Trained staff bring equipment and materials to schools for 2-3 hour sessions during the school day. Participating students receive a workbook that guides them through the days activities, provides a number of “do at home” activities, and includes information on how to earn a Minnesota State Park pass.

A sample agenda can include, but is not limited to:

- Team Building Games (includes learning to communicate with each other respectfully and reflection on the process)
- Outdoor Skills and Nature 1 (includes how to be good stewards of the outdoors, how to look for nature)
- Outdoor Skills and Nature 2 (includes leave no trace, safe hiking preparation)
- Outdoor Skills and Nature 3 (includes plant and animal identification, how to properly interact with wild plants and animals)
- Archery (includes teaching students archery safety and basic know how)

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Completed 50 Classrooms - 3,000 youth served	February 28, 2026
Completed 100 Classrooms - 6,000 youth served	June 30, 2026
First 10 classrooms - 60 students	October 31, 2026
Completed 25 classrooms - 1,500 students	November 30, 2026

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?

Results . After the grant period ends, we plan on including this program in our future organizational budget, reaching out to additional funders to continue the AC program. The project will be reviewed quarterly during the grant period and changes will be made as needed.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Bill Anderson-Horecka

Job Title: Senior Development Director

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

Bill Anderson Horecka has 25 years of experience working with youth programming through the Boy Scouts of America. His 25 years include direct and indirect work with youth, budgets, programming and staffing (both volunteer and paid).

Organization: Northern Star Council, Boy Scouts of America

Organization Description:

In Minnesota, Scouting was first organized in 1910, three years after Scouting was founded in England in 1907. Over its 115-year history Scouting has changed with the times, offering age-appropriate programs that challenge both physical and mental development. These programs allow youth to explore a variety of activities that instill life skills through experiential learning techniques. Local Scouting offers different programs to youth in traditional programs (Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, and Venturing); we work with companies through Exploring; youth offenders with Juvenile Diversion; we offer focused programs to the urban community through Scoutreach; and Special Needs Scouting for youth and adults with disabilities. In addition to traditional volunteer-led Scouting, Northern Star Scouting serves youth through programming at Base Camp. These community youth are made up of boys and girls ages 5-19 and participate in activities that teach a wide array of skills, including teambuilding, critical thinking, sportsmanship, and self-reliance

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
Program Coordinator		Carries out the program at various locations			15%	0.5		\$35,000
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.5 FTE Support staff		Works with the program coordinators for organization, registration, etc.			15%	0.5		\$25,000
Part Time Program Coordinator		Helps at 50% of the classroom programs			15%	0.75		\$30,000
Part Time Program Coordinator		Helps at 50% of the classroom programs			15%	0.75		\$30,000
							Sub Total	\$155,000
Contracts and Services								
							Sub Total	-
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Tools and Supplies	MN State Park Passes	Fulfilling the incentive for families to continue learning about their environment and the outdoors after the Adventure Classroom program is completed. Our estimate is 50% of youth will fulfill the requirement for the state park pass.					\$70,000
	Tools and Supplies	Two Mobile Archery Systems	For Archery instruction					\$6,000
							Sub Total	\$76,000
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-

Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Trips to schools, average of 30 miles round trip. 100 Schools, times 2 full time and 2 part time (1 FTE), average of 90 miles per school, at .75 a mile is \$67.50 per school for 2 full time and 1 part time person	Employees drive to the schools that have an Adventure Classroom Program					\$7,000
							Sub Total	\$7,000
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
	Printing	6,000 12 page color booklets detailing the Adventure Classroom program.	In class and at home activities included in each for students to take home.					\$3,000
							Sub Total	\$3,000
Other Expenses								
		Postage	To mail certificate and MN State Park Pass to youth who complete the take home portion.					\$3,000
							Sub Total	\$3,000
							Grand Total	\$244,000

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	Annual Campaign and/or Special Projects Board reserve fund	Non ENRTF funds will be used towards salary of the full time program coordinators so their starting salary is \$70,000 when you combine ENRTF and non ENRTF funds	Potential	\$60,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$60,000
			Funds Total	\$60,000

Total Project Cost: \$304,000

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [05438468-edf.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

This is our Adventure Classroom outline for our pilot program we are testing in 2025....

Financial Capacity

Title	File
Northern Star Council 2023 990	7a8a1590-086.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Letter	088901fb-2cf.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Adventure Classroom Photo	62c691ba-daa.jpe

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:

Greg Ball, Colleen Brazier, Kathryn Wyatt

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