



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2027 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2027-151

Proposal Title: Increasing Education and Outdoor Recreation Camps for Youth and Families

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 experiences to underserved rural and metro-area children and families through our day-use and overnight youth and family camps.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$199,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30, 2030

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?

County(s): Pine

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-nine percent (over 320,000 children) of Minnesota's K-12 students qualify for free and reduced-price (FRP) meals, meaning day and overnight 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 and adults. Every youth and/or family camp 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. For these camps, we will promote programs through interested partner organizations including Ujamaa Place, and Imhotep Academy to reach wider audiences. We will also partner with Baztec and Urban Ice Anglers to provide fishing and ice fishing opportunities, as well as Swiftwater Adventures for whitewater rafting experiences.

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 participant 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 \$300 - \$900, based on duration, age level and associated learning materials. 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 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 must pass and have passed background checks before employment.

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 and families 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.

By offering multi-generational camps, we create environmental experiences that tie generations together

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 residential environmental learning centers.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Outreach

Activity Budget: \$1

Activity Description:

We will make underserved youth and families aware of this opportunity and make connections with underserved communities and organizations by promoting our camp opportunities to our network of schools, through social media and digital and print advertisements. We will promote this funding opportunity through Imhotep Academy and Ujamaa Place, and local school districts including East Central Public Schools, Pine City Public Schools, Hinckley-Finlayson Public Schools, Mora Public Schools, Moose Lake Public Schools, and Barnum Public Schools. We will also promote these opportunities to our authorized public charter schools, where we have 36 schools broadly across Minnesota serving 10,370 students, of which 72% are BIPOC students, 68% qualify for Free and Reduced-Price Meals, 33% are English Language Learners, and 16% are Special Education students. We will transport campers to Osprey Wilds for their camp experiences.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Promote our programs to local schools, youth populations & groups & target market through social media	May 31, 2030

Activity 2: Offer Camp Scholarships and Transportation to Underserved Youth

Activity Budget: \$198,999

Activity Description:

Provide transportation in Osprey Wilds' vehicles to youth campers receiving scholarships at specified local and metro area pick up locations, based on enrollments of camps. We anticipate this to be between 10 to 20 round-trips per week, for each week of camps offered for each summer of the grant. Provide scholarships to underserved campers.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Provide 150 camp scholarships for underserved youth/families and with 18-40 instruction hours, camp dependent	June 30, 2028
Provide 175 camp scholarships for underserved youth/families with 18-40 instruction hours, camp dependent	June 30, 2029
Provide 175 camp scholarships for underserved youth/families with 18-40 instruction hours, camp dependent	June 30, 2030

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.

Osprey Wilds will disseminate information about this grant opportunity through multiple outlets including: printed and electronic promotional materials to Minnesota's public, private and tribal schools, home school networks, as well as individuals and families. We will advertise and promote these opportunities through our accounts with various social media platforms, print and electronic newsletters to our mailing and emailing lists, 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."

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 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
Increasing Access to Environmental Education Youth Camps	M.L. 2024, , Chp. 83, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 05k	\$163,000
Outdoor School for Minnesota K-12 Students	M.L. 2025, First Special Session, Chp. 1, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 05f	\$3,992,000

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 since 2009. 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 six awarded LCCMR grants totaling over \$6.1 million and has secured other large grants including with the MN Land Trust (\$865,000), Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (\$866,000), Payroll Protection Program grants (\$397,000) and numerous five-figure grants over the years. Bryan has worked at Osprey Wilds since 2007 and been involved with

environmental education for over 24 years. Under Bryan's leadership, Osprey Wilds has gone through many facilities projects including extensive acreage acquisition, additions of clean energy technologies, facilities upgrades, new buildings, the addition of a regenerative farm, trail and road improvements, and improved organizational financial health.

Organization: Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center

Organization Description:

Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center (formerly Audubon Center of the North Woods) is a 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 overnight and day-use 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 Equipment								
							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 19,310 miles total. Reimbursed at the mileage rate in the Commissioner's Plan	Provide transportation					\$14,000
							Sub Total	\$14,000
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								

							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
		Camp Scholarships	Provide minimum of 500 youth and family camp scholarships, resulting in a minimum of 9,000 instruction hours. Scholarships cover camp expenses including program expenses (instruction, staffing, lodging, food, materials, related expenses)					\$185,000
							Sub Total	\$185,000
							Grand Total	\$199,000

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
In-Kind	Osprey Wilds	Marketing Efforts from Osprey Wilds Marketing & Communications Staff	Secured	\$10,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$55,000
			Funds Total	\$55,000

Total Project Cost: \$254,000

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

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

Alternate Text for Visual Component

This visual aid created by the Children and Nature Network illustrates what research has found to be the many cognitive, behavioral and social-emotional benefits children experience when spending time in nature. Our camp offerings will help participants in our camp offerings experience many of these benefits....

Financial Capacity

Title	File
2024 Form 990	a633c4d6-f06.pdf
IRS Tax Exempt Letter	99cd8e2e-1e8.pdf
MN Secretary of State Certificate of Good Standing	be991c15-4c0.pdf
Osprey Wilds Audited Financials 2024-2025	9238b8a1-cdd.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Osprey Wilds Board Resolution	a7f1867a-7c8.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Ujamaa Place Letter of Support	4d1701db-5b5.pdf
Baztec & Urban Ice Anglers Letter of Support	d00f858f-b75.pdf
Imhotep Academy Letter of Support	764437fb-0fa.pdf
Swiftwater Adventures Letter of Support	007d8a15-3e2.pdf
Representative Nathan Nelson Letter of Support	781e152d-6da.pdf
Senator Jason Rarick Letter of Support	09678c4f-fdf.pdf
Pine City Schools Letter of Support	973914f6-7e1.pdf
City of Sandstone Letter of Support	3dbfaa1d-16c.pdf
Pine County Commissioners Letter of Support	d828981b-c43.pdf
East Central Schools Letter of Support	9b8191ac-51d.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, Executive Director, 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