



Michigan Nature Association

Protecting Michigan's Natural Heritage Since 1952

2310 Science Parkway, Suite 100

Okemos, MI 48864

866.223.2231

Nature Field Trip Grants

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who may apply for the nature field trip mini-grants?

Any accredited public or private K-12 school may apply for the grants. MNA is especially interested in applications from schools in urban neighborhoods with limited ability to access natural areas.

2. What can the nature field trip mini-grants be used for?

Grants can cover bus transportation and educational supplies (e.g., water test kits, field guides, binoculars, etc.) related to a field trip to a qualified natural area. Qualified natural areas include select MNA nature sanctuaries, community nature centers, and other appropriate locations.

3. How much funding does each grant provide?

\$500 will be awarded per selected organization. Checks will be made out to a particular school, marked attention to a specific teacher. Recipients will receive \$400 of the \$500 up front, the remaining \$100 will be paid once a final report, trip photos and receipt of expenses are received.

4. When are grant applications due and when are awards made?

For the 2018-2019 school year, the next application deadline for Fall 2018 is September 7, 2018 (decisions made by September 14) and February 22, 2019 for Spring 2019 Field Trips (decisions made in early March).

5. How do I apply?

Find an application online at www.michigannature.org/education or contact the Michigan Nature Association directly at (866) 223-2231 or email michigannature@michigannature.org to request one.

6. What is the review process for the grants?

A review committee of representatives from the Michigan Nature Association will select grant recipients based on the strength of their applications. Successful applicants will be asked to sign a grant agreement to receive a first payment of \$400.

7. What are the criteria MNA will review on grant applications?

Review criteria include geographic focus, clarity of rationale and connection with habitat conservation. MNA gives strong consideration to awarding grants to schools with limited access to natural areas due to financial, geographic and socioeconomic factors; schools participating in MNA's School to Sanctuary Program; and, in some cases, professional development opportunities that enhance teachers' ability to provide outdoor, experiential environmental education. Use of an MNA sanctuary is ideal but not required (see application for further details).

8. What type of grant reporting is required?

A 1-2 page report is required that includes some metrics (who, what, where, number of students) and at least 3 photos from the event featuring students in the natural area. (Grant recipients must secure parental permission for distribution of photos.) A final report form will be provided to all grant recipients.