



New England
Field Office



NH Partnership for Schoolyard Action Grants Application

Deadline January 31, 2020

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s New England Field Office, New Hampshire Fish and Game, New Hampshire Project Learning Tree, and New Hampshire Audubon have collaborated to support schools that want to achieve the benefits of nature-based studies for student development and learning. Our goals are to nurture future environmental stewards by connecting kids with their local environment and to enliven learning through nature.

Research has proven that nature-based learning has a positive impact on student academic and developmental growth. A survey of staff at 100 schools with active schoolyard-based studies had positive impressions about the impact of those studies on student development and performance. A comparative study of schools across the United States found that students who are engaged in learning that uses the natural environment as an integrating context scored 92% higher when compared to students following a traditional approach; scores improved in science, math, language arts, and social studies depending on the focus of their studies. Moreover, learning that involved the student’s local environment and community contributed to pride and ownership in their work, fostering a growing stewardship ethic.

Grant Procedures and Eligibility:

Schools and/or organizations that teach preschool-12th grade may apply for a Schoolyard Action Grant. *Grant awards are typically awarded up to \$1,500. Submission deadline is January 31, 2020.*

The grant application must be complete upon submission and sent in a single email or envelope to:

Ted Kendziora
US Fish and Wildlife Service
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301
Ted_kendziora@fws.gov

Electronic applications and accompanying files must be clearly titled with your school or organization in the heading (examples are SouthMiddleSchoolActionGrant.doc, SouthMiddleSchoolActionGrantpictures.pdf, SouthMiddleSchoolActionGrantbudget.exe, etc.).

Please do not submit handwritten applications.

Grant Project Considerations:

The grant proposals should consider the following:

- Projects should be finished within 2 years of the award;
- if awarded the grant money, team members must attend a workshop on **March 28, 2020**;
 - team members must submit a Final Report summary that includes expenditures, pictures, accomplishments, and the number of participants in the project;
 - schools are encouraged to invite and use technical assistance provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NH Project Learning Tree, NH Fish and Game or NH Audubon staff; and
 - team members are encouraged to share their project with others at a workshop or conference.

Examples of projects that qualify:

- developing a plan and/or lessons to integrate the schoolyard studies into curricula;
- teachers and students working with a landscape architect to design a schoolyard plan;
- planting native trees, shrubs, vines or perennials to provide wildlife food or cover;
- establishing pollinator gardens, especially for monarchs;
- supplies (beyond typical school supplies) needed to participate in a citizen science project such as Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Project Feederwatch, Birdsleuth, or Yard Map, or New England Signs of the Seasons phenology project;
- building ponds or other water sources such as birdbaths or fountains;
- installing bird feeders and feeding stations;
- construction of nature trails; and
- building small structures that support outdoor learning.

Examples of projects that DO NOT qualify:

- purchasing education supplies;
- funding staff, speakers or other assistants on the project;
- school grounds landscaping;
- vegetable gardens; and
- field trips.

Grant Award Requirements:

Grant application questions address important project components. A project must have a team of three or more people working on its planning and implementation. These teams may be comprised of all school staff or include community members. Proposals should outline a plan for how the project will be integrated with school curricula; strong proposals will integrate multiple subject areas and involve students in their planning and implementation. Projects must have administrative support and a plan for project sustainability. Involvement and donations (time-in-kind or materials) by the community should be documented in the budget. If you are planning a garden for wildlife, a plant list must be included.

The following questions must be addressed in your proposal. Please indicate the question number within your application submittal.

- 1. Provide a summary of your project, including a description of the project, rationale for why it is needed, how it was selected, the objectives, and a timeline.**
- 2. Provide a map and photos of the site (example attached).**
- 3. Who has committed to the project team? A minimum of three team members are required. Briefly describe team members' duties at school or in the community and their role on the team. Do any team members have formal or informal training in environmental studies? (Please describe briefly.) Have any had training in Project Learning Tree, Project WILD, Creating & Teaching in Schoolyards, or Math and Science Partnership?**
- 4. How does this project benefit wildlife and native plants? If your project is outdoor classroom-based, how does this project get kids outside?**
- 5. How is this project integrated with your curricula; include measurable learning objectives for students. Please include targeted grade(s) and how this project will help meet required standards. Are the teachers in the target grade(s) committed to using the project?**
- 6. How are students involved in planning, implementation and maintenance?**
- 7. What is your sustainability plan (long-term and summer maintenance)?**
- 8. How does your administration support your project (approval, resources, time, maintenance)?**
- 9. A. What will you purchase with the grant funds? (Include budget following the provided outline.)**

B. If there are other funds or in-kind donations being used for the project, please provide documentation/letters of support for these contributions. In-kind contributions and/or matching funds may leverage additional grant dollars and strengthen your proposal.
- 10. Have you applied for this grant before? If so, what is the status of the application? Do you have any other grant applications pending to support this project? If so, what are they?**

For your information

Here is a checklist to assure you have all of the required documents for your grant application:

- School/Organization
- Title of Project
- School/Organization Address
- School/Organizations Phone
- Date of Application
- Grant Amount Requested (*\$1,500 maximum*)
- Grant Check Written To
- Project Leader’s Name and Contact Information
- Team Member 1 and Contact Information
- Team Member 2 Contact Information
- Signature of Authorized Representative, School Principal, Project Leader, Team Members

Draft Project Budget

You may alter this budget table to better reflect your budget plan, but please include all the items below, and any time-in-kind and/or donations.

Material	Cost	Source of Funds
<i>e.g., Plants</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>	<i>Garden Club (in-kind)</i>
<i>Equipment Rental- tractor</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>	<i>Farmer Jones (in-kind)</i>
<i>Trees</i>	<i>\$250.00</i>	<i>Grant</i>

Grant Scoring: The following criteria are used for scoring:

- Benefits to wildlife and native habitats, or if the project is more outdoor classroom-based, how does this project get kids outside (20 points)?
- How is the curricula integrated with project (20 points)?
- How are students involved in the planning and implementation (20 points)?
- How are the school and community involved in planning, implementation (20 points)?
- Sustainability (summer and long-term maintenance) (15 points).
- Administrative Support (10 points).
- Non-grant Support of Dollars (5 points).

Questions:

If you have any questions about the grant application, please call or email:

Ted Kendziora
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Ted_kendziora@fws.gov
603-227-6412