

Outdoor Classroom Grant Application



Acadia National Park & Friends of Acadia

What is an outdoor classroom?

An outdoor classroom is an outdoor educational space that brings learning to life by bringing learning outside. It becomes a gathering place for teachers and students and provides an opportunity to integrate nature into your school grounds. All subjects or curriculum can be presented in an outdoor classroom and can be used in every season. To get started, you need a great plan and plenty of school commitment. Elements of an outdoor classroom can include:

- Natural features (trees, fields, wetlands)
- Trails
- Gardens (vegetable, butterfly)
- Creative space
- Greenhouses
- Outdoor chalkboard and seating
- Study space
- Fitness and balance elements

Grants are available for early learning centers through grade 12 schools to build an outdoor classroom at their site. Funding is provided through Friends of Acadia to support more youth engagement with Acadia National Park. Outdoor classrooms must be on school grounds and provide a curriculum link to Acadia.



Images: The Outdoor Classroom Project, Boston Schoolyard Initiative, & Nature Explore

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Requirements for scholarship

1. Complete Application Materials - Application Materials Required
 1. Letter of Administrative Support
 2. Outdoor Classroom Objectives and Timeline
 3. Outdoor Classroom Fund Request
 4. Map of Design Plan, if applicable
 5. Estimated Number of Participants
 6. Contact Information
2. Attend Professional Development – Staff will participate in training tailored to the content and site of your outdoor classroom project. Training funds will be provided through the grant, but decided upon by school staff. Examples: Project WILD, Project WET, Project Learning Tree, Nature Explore
3. Provide Documentation - Provide documentation that students are participating in outdoor learning 18 days of the school year (approximately 10%) through photos, written summaries of student and teacher experiences, and other documentation of your choice. Due by the end of the school year.
4. Link Curriculum - Each class using the outdoor classroom must study three lessons throughout the school year which link to current issues in Acadia: natural processes, cultural history, environmental issues, arts in the park, etc. Funds may be used to bring a ranger to your school.
5. Optional Field Trip – Each class may attend a field trip to Acadia after using the outdoor classroom and learning about the park. The field trip is optional and will be paid for by the grant.

Please fill out the following sections or attach to the application:

Curriculum Goals

Please share your curriculum goals for creating or improving an outdoor classroom.

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Outdoor Classroom Objectives and Timeline

<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
1. Design Plan	
2. Construction	
3. Landscape Materials	
4. Educational Resources	
5. Initial Staff Training	
6. Student Use of Outdoor Classroom	
7. Site Maintenance	
8. Long-term Staff Support	

Estimated Outdoor Classroom Fund Request

Funds can be used for the expense categories listed below. More funds are given when more students participate. If the project is multi-year, schools can apply for funding in successive years to continue their project: up to \$5,000 the first year and up to \$2,500 for successive years for a total of \$10,000.

<i>Expense</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Cost</i>
1. Design Plan (including site consultation if needed)		
2. Construction		
3. Landscaping Materials		
4. Educational Resources		
<i>Additional Comments:</i>		<i>Total Cost:</i>

Any other funding sources? _____

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Estimated Number of Participants

Students _____ # Adults (Staff, Parents) _____ # TOTAL _____

Contact Information

School Name: _____

School District: _____

Teacher(s): _____

Grade Level(s): _____

Phone: _____

Email(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

School Official's Signature: _____

If approved, who should the check be made out to? _____

Questions?

Schools may apply for the grant throughout the year. If you would like a word document version of the application in order to input your information, please contact Paige Steele, the conservation projects manager at Friends of Acadia, with questions and applications. paige@friendsofacadia.org

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