

# Outdoor Classroom Grant Application

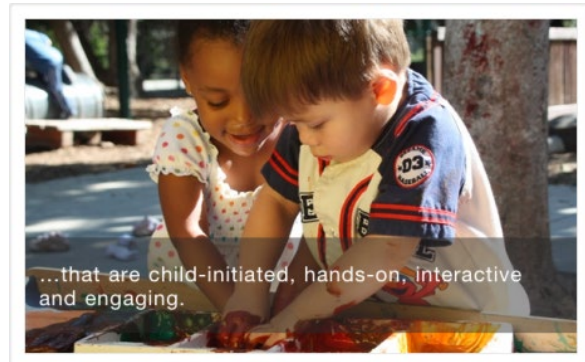
## Acadia National Park & Friends of Acadia



### What is an outdoor classroom?

An outdoor classroom is an educational space outside that provides an opportunity to integrate nature into your school grounds. These spaces engage all the senses while learning, leading to improved academic outcomes of students, as well as increasing stewardship values and the well-being of all who use the space. Outdoor classrooms can be an all-season gathering place for schools. To get started, you need a great plan and the support of your school community. Elements of an outdoor classroom can be:

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



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

### Grant Funds

Funding supports more youth engagement with Acadia National Park and are available for public schools and YMCA early learning centers located in Maine. Grants are awarded on a first come, first serve basis February – November. The grant is designed to be flexible to meet your needs and reduce barriers to learning in the outdoors. Funds may be used to create a new space or enhance an existing space. Funds may also be used to purchase outdoor gear for students and staff, educational field supplies, etc.

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#### Grant Requirements

1. Campuses must be located within the State of Maine.
2. Outdoor classrooms must be built on the public school or YMCA campus. The outdoor learning space should be within a short-walking distance from the building(s) and not require transportation, except in the cases of mobility issues. The property that the outdoor classroom is built on must be owned by the educational institute and/or the town in the case of a public school.
3. YMCA early learning centers serving infants through afterschool care must be:
  - Licensed by the State of Maine.
  - Serving early childhood youth full-time.
  - In operation for 5 years or more.
  - Not require a fiscal agent to receive funding.
4. Schools must submit a complete application, accepted on a rolling basis February - November.
5. Curriculum link to Acadia National Park: Students must study three lessons throughout the school year, using the outdoor classroom, which connects to current issues in Acadia: natural processes, cultural history, environmental issues, arts in the park, etc.
6. **Grant reports are due December 1<sup>st</sup>, one year following your grant award.** Provide documentation that students are learning outdoors ~18 school days (10%) through photos, written summaries of student and teacher experiences, Acadia-linked lessons, etc.

**Funds available per school campus** (*not per school district*) If grant funds are still available by October 1<sup>st</sup>, remaining funds will be opened to all Maine public schools.

New grants: for first time recipients to implement or expand outdoor classrooms.

- 5 grants of \$7,500 per year will be given to public schools.
  - 3 of these grants will be awarded to public schools located within Hancock, Penobscot, and/or Washington County.
- 2 grants of \$5,000 per year are reserved for YMCA sites in Maine that provide full-time early childhood and part-time afterschool care throughout the year.

Continuing grants: 5 grants of \$2,500 each are available for returning public school grant recipients, located in Hancock, Penobscot, or Washington County, to continue outdoor classroom expansion.

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### Application Materials

1. Letter of administrative support
2. Outdoor Classroom objectives and timeline
3. Fund amount request if different than full amount
4. Map of design plan, if applicable
5. Estimated number of participants
6. State of Maine license or approved school documentation for YMCA early learning centers
7. Contact information

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

### Curriculum Goals

Please share your curriculum goals for creating a new space or improving an existing 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	

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### Estimated Outdoor Classroom Fund Request

Funds can be used for the expense categories listed on page 4.

Any other funding sources? \_\_\_\_\_

### Estimated Number of Participants

# Students \_\_\_\_\_ # Adults (Staff, Parents) \_\_\_\_\_ # TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

<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>

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#### Contact Information

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School District: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

School Official's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

If approved, to whom and where should the check be sent to? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Please submit applications and questions to:

Paige Steele  
Acadia for All Director  
Friends of Acadia  
Email: [paige@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:paige@friendsofacadia.org)  
Phone: (207) 370-7995, Fax: (207) 288-8938  
Address: P.O. Box 45, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609

#### For Acadia National Park field trip inquiries:

Kate Petrie  
Education Coordinator  
Acadia National Park  
Email: [kate\\_petrie@nps.gov](mailto:kate_petrie@nps.gov)  
Phone: (207) 288-8812