



**Michigan Nature Association and the
West Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative
2022 – 2023 Field Trip Grants
Muskegon County Schools**

Frequently Asked Questions

The Michigan Nature Association (MNA) and its partner, the West Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative (WMGLSI/Muskegon Area Intermediate School District), are excited to provide this field trip grant opportunity for eligible schools in Muskegon County.

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

Teachers from accredited public or private K-12 schools within Muskegon County that have a high percentage (75% or more) of economically disadvantaged students as reported to MI School Data. Sorry, no Pre-K applications. Depending on demand, schools with 50% or more of economically disadvantaged students may be considered.

2. What can the nature field trip 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 community nature centers, state or county parks, conservation lands such as MNA nature sanctuaries and other appropriate locations.

3. How much funding does each grant provide?

Up to \$500 will be awarded per selected school in a competitive process. A grant agreement will be created for selected schools. Once signed by the teacher or school administrator, the school will receive \$400 of the \$500 up front for the classroom; the remaining \$100 will be paid once a final report, trip photos and receipt of expenses are received. (If a request is less than \$500, then approximately 80% of the grant will be paid up front.)

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

For the 2022-2023 school year, the application deadline for field trips is **Friday, February 10th** for the 2023 spring school semester.

5. How do I apply?

The application form can be found at this link: <http://michigannature.org/menus/education.html> or contact Abby Pointer, MNA, at <mailto:apointer@michigannature.org> or Erica Johnson at ejohnson@muskegonisd.org. Questions about the grant program can be addressed to Abby. Erica is available to provide support to teachers who wish help in creating a meaningful field trip.

6. What is the review process for the grants?

Representatives from MNA and WMGLSI will select grant recipients based on the strength of their applications, including the field trip objectives.

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

MNA and WMGLSI will use a scoring rubric, see below. We seek grants for trips that will connect students to the natural world and science standards at the state, district and school levels. Erica Johnson at the WMGLSI would be happy to help teachers create a meaningful, educational field trip.

8. What type of grant reporting is required?

A 1-2 page report is required and at least three photos from the trip 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.

9. What other information do I need to know?

If funded for the field trip grant, teachers will have the opportunity to be connected to the WMGLSI and its environmental education programming.

Scoring Rubric for MNA Field Trip Grants

	3	2	1	Score
Need	Field trip will not happen without field trip support.	Grant support is part of a larger class trip budget but the trip overall provides outstanding nature based learning opportunity. (e.g. Annie's Big Nature Lesson)	MNA support is a relatively small portion of a large budget and the majority of activities are not strongly nature based learning.	
Destination	Outdoor experience in eligible natural areas associated community nature centers, state or county parks or other conservation lands	Outdoor experience in park or other open space but not necessarily a natural area.	The destination is not outdoor, nature based.	
Educational Objective(s)	Specific objectives clearly identified and strongly linked to state science standards or district/school goals.	Objectives identified and some evidence of linkage to state science standards or district/school goals.	Objectives are unclear and do not address state or district/school science standards	
Trip Activities	Nature based learning activities are identified, linked to learning objectives, and include a service learning or data collection component(s)	Nature based learning activities are identified and linked to learning objectives.	No structured activities are identified or they seem to be more recreation based.	
Pre and Post Trip Activities	Field trip is clearly integrated into both pre and post classroom study	There is at least one pre or post classroom activity related to the field trip.	Not clear if field trip is integrated into any related classroom study	
Budget	Budget is complete and linked to the trip's educational objectives	Budget is complete but is not cost effective and/or is not linked to educational objectives	Budget lacks required information.	

ABOUT:

MNA is a statewide, nonprofit conservation organization that works to protect Michigan's rare, threatened and endangered species; imperiled natural communities; and unique geologic features. www.michigannature.org.

WMGLSI is a collaborative with the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District and is one of several Great Lake Stewardship Initiative learning hubs across the state dedicated to using a place-based education model to create learning experiences for students that have lasting impacts on the environment.