



Michigan Nature Association 2023– 2024 Field Trip Grants

Frequently Asked Questions

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

Any accredited public or private K-12 school may apply for the grants in the state of Michigan. Priority will be given to schools that have limited access to natural areas due to financial, geographic and socioeconomic factors.

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 MNA nature sanctuaries, community nature centers, state parks 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, 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 2023-2034 school year, the next application deadline for Fall 2023 Field Trips is Wednesday, September 13, 2023 (decisions made by September 29th) and Friday, March 1st, 2024 for Spring 2024 Field Trips (decisions made by March 15th).

5. How do I apply?

Visit www.michigannature.org and click on the Education tab to submit an online application using a Google Form or download a pdf of the application. Or contact the Michigan Nature Association directly at (866) 223-2231 or email Abby Pointer at apointer@michigannature.org to request an application.

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.

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

The committee uses a decision making scoring rubric; this can be found on the second page of this document. We seek grants for trips that will connect students to the natural world and science standards at the state, district and school levels. MNA gives strong consideration to awarding grants to schools with limited access to natural areas due to financial, geographic and socioeconomic factors; as well as schools participating in MNA's School to Sanctuary Program. In some cases, grants can be provided for professional development opportunities that enhance a teacher's ability to provide outdoor, experiential environmental education.

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.

Scoring Rubric for MNA Field Trip Grants

	3	2	1	Score
Need	Field trip will not happen without MNA support	MNA support is part of a larger budget but field trip 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 with MNA nature sanctuaries, community nature centers, state parks or other conservation lands	Outdoor experience in park or other open space but not necessarily a natural area.	Indoor nature themed experience such as class/tour/program at the DNR Outdoor Adventure Center or nature center	
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.	