Minnesota State Parks and Trails Transportation Grants Application

# Program Overview

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Parks and Trails Division, is currently accepting grant applications to pay for transportation expenses to Minnesota state parks and trails for naturalist-led programs. Eligible schools, youth groups, and community organizations may apply for these grants (up to $5000) to cover transportation expenses to attend prescheduled naturalist-led programs. Minnesota state parks and trails naturalist-led programs provide educational opportunities to explore Minnesota’s rich natural and cultural history. Programs must be attended prior to June 30th, 2024.

# Applicant Requirements:

Applicants must meet the following requirements to be eligible for consideration:

## Community Income Demographics:

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are key values of the DNR. One of our goals is to provide inclusive state parks and trails interpretation and environmental education programs. This grant program is intended to serve audiences that from lower income communities, by providing transportation to Minnesota state parks naturalist-led programs. Applicants must meet one or more of the criteria listed below. Funding will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis until funds are exhausted.

* The applicant has Title One status.
* At least 40% of the applicant’s participants are enrolled in free and reduced priced school lunch programs.

## Letter of Approval

Participating organization must provide a letter of approval from a principal, board member, or person of approved delegated authority. The letter must state that participation in the activity is approved.

## Coordinate Busing Logistics:

While DNR will provide the funding (not to exceed $5,000) for transportation, applicants are responsible for coordinating logistics with local bus companies. This includes all pick-up, drop-off, timing, and directional information. Applicants will also be responsible for payment to bus companies and will be reimbursed after submitting receipts to DNR.

## Program Participation

Applicants must use the funding to attend at least one official state park naturalist-led interpretive program during their visit.

## Work Plan

Applicants must provide an initial work plan detailing their plans to attend a state park naturalist-led program and coordinate transportation logistics. Some details of the work plan may be finished following the receipt of the grant award. A final work plan including travel and program details must be submitted prior to the state park visit.

## Grant Award Notification Agreement

The DNR will work with applicants to complete a Grant Award Notification Agreement for the funding. If multiple applicants are under the jurisdiction of the same association (school, county, etc.), The Department of Natural Resources will not implement multiple agreements for individuals within the same association. Rather, the DNR will work to complete the grant agreement with their respective “parent” association as a whole.

**Please contact Eric Pelto with program or application questions.**
**Email:** eric.pelto@state.mn.us **Phone:** 651-259-5577

# Applicant Information:

## Participating Organization Information

Participating Organization Name:

Primary Contact Person Full Name:

Phone:

Email:

Address:

City:

ZIP/ Postal Code:

County:

Program Eligibility

Participating organizations must meet the following requirements to participate in the Minnesota State Parks and Trails Bus Grants program. Please answer all the questions below.

1. Does your organization have Title One Status?

OR Do 40% or more of the participants in your organizations program participate in free and reduced priced school lunch programs?

1. Will you be using this funding to attend a Minnesota state park naturalist-led program?
	1. Is this program currently scheduled with a park naturalist?
	2. Please provide scheduling details. Date, time, location.
2. How many participants will you be bringing on your visit to a Minnesota state park?
3. Have you received and attached a letter of approval from a principal, board member, or person of approved delegated authority?
4. Have you completed and attached a proposed work plan?
5. Have you reviewed the Grant Award Notification Agreement and completed the first page?
6. What is the total requested amount of funding for transportation expenses?
7. Do you agree to fill out a final report and submit to the DNR following participation in a Minnesota state park naturalist-led program? Report may include demographic information.