



# Michigan Nature Association 2024– 2025 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. Please see [MIPINES map](#) to help find a location.

## 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?

To be considered for a Fall 2024 grant, applications should be submitted by Thursday, September 12th, 2024. To be considered for a Spring 2025 grant, applications should be submitted by Thursday, October 17th, 2024. We expect to issue awards for Fall 2024 trips during the week of September 23rd, 2024. Spring 2025 awards will be announced early February, 2025.

## 5. How do I apply?

Use our Google Form to apply, [here](#). Visit [www.michigannature.org](http://www.michigannature.org) and explore our Education tab for more resources on applying.

## 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. 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 factor. MNA also seeks to fund trips that are aligned with our 'areas of conservation focus', including vernal pools; native prairies and savannas; fens, bogs, and other peatlands; and rare birds. 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.