



**2016 Connecting Diverse Communities to US Forest Service Resources
through the Every Kid in a Park Initiative**

Request for Applications (RFA)

**Supported by the US Forest Service
Issued by the National Environmental Education Foundation**

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The US Forest Service (USFS) and the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) are committed to connecting youth with nature and the outdoors by providing students with opportunities to explore the importance, use, and protection of natural resources and the environment firsthand. Through this grant, NEEF and USFS are collaborating to support projects that engage 4th grade tribal youth in place-based learning and/or recreational activities on USFS lands as part of the federal [Every Kid in a Park](#) program.

This RFA is open to schools and other educational agencies or organizations that serve a significant number of tribal youth. **Any such educational institution that wishes to apply must do so in partnership with a USFS site located within a 2 hour drive. Please note that the educational institution will be the official “applicant” and is responsible for submitting the application and final report.** Applications that involve a place-based learning component will be given priority during the application review process over applications involving events that are purely recreational.

The implementation process for this grant will involve grantee selection, participation in a digital training, program planning, implementation, and reporting. Through the digital training, grantees selected to participate in this program will learn about best practices and resources available for hosting place-based learning activities on public land sites, with a special focus on citizen science. All applications must align with the following desired outcomes:

- Event highlights the natural and/or cultural significance of the site through place-based learning activities/discussions (such as citizen science projects) or recreational activity
- Students actively participate in the environmental education activity being offered at the site
- Students demonstrate interest in the activity taking place and are able to communicate what they learned from the experience

Grants funds can be used to cover costs associated with delivering programs (i.e., curriculum/materials development, field trips, program supplies, transportation, etc.) Projects that promote the following activities are of particular interest:

- K-12 place-based learning experiences on public lands and waterways
- Public lands and waterways as living laboratories
- Environmental education and stewardship
- Environmental monitoring and citizen science

Funds awarded through this RFA cannot be used for:

- Conducting lobbying, carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation
- Influencing the outcome of any specific election through any means
- Federal staff time
- Purposes other than charitable, scientific, or educational
- Budget shortfalls, general support, or endowment funds
- Land acquisition or real estate purchases
- Individual scholarships or fellowships
- Reimbursement purposes (i.e., to cover costs associated with events or activities that have already occurred)
- Any costs not directly related to the funds requested in the proposal

A total of \$20,000 will be awarded through this RFA. Grant amounts may range from \$2,000-\$5,000 and will vary based on the scope of the grant, cost of work proposed by each applicant, quality of the submissions, and the review and selection process. Please note that NEEF reserves the right to provide full or partial funding or may decline an applicant's request for a grant.

Note: Educational institutions that are interested in submitting an application in response to this RFA must collaborate with at least one USFS site to design their program and complete the application. Partnering USFS sites must submit a letter of support indicating their commitment to the project. See application instructions for more information and a link to a sample letter of support that applicants may use as a template.

All grantees will be required to visit the [Every Kid in a Park website](#) to print out a unique pass for each 4th grader involved in the event. These passes must be brought to the partnering USFS site at the time of the event.

USFS sites that are not already part of the [Hands on the Land](#) (HOL) network are strongly encouraged to register. HOL registration does not need to be completed as part of the application process for this grant, however we ask that you register your program by the end of the grant period. By joining HOL, you join a national network of field classrooms and agency resources connecting students, teachers, families, and volunteers with public lands and waterways. Learn more about the benefits of registering and the requirements for membership [here](#).

Applications are due by September 6, 2016, and must be submitted by 11:59 PM CT. All applications must be submitted through our [online grant application system](#).

Questions about the application should be sent to: grantsadmin@neefusa.org. Please type "NEEF USFS Every Kid in a Park Grant" in the subject line of your email.