

WILDERNESS WHEELS CRITERIA AND APPLICATION

What is one of the greatest barriers for both young and old to participate in outdoor recreation? Lack of transportation.

Thanks to Wilderness Wheels, PPF's new donor-funded transportation scholarship program, students in grades K-12 at a Title I school; youth participating in a community enrichment program such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the local Y, etc. ; and seniors attending programs at their local senior centers are eligible to apply for funding to overcome this hurdle. Grantees are then able to use the Pennsylvania state parks and forests for experiential learning, leadership development, team building, career exploration, or recreation skills development. Through this exciting new scholarship program, the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation offers a new way to access the outdoors, creating lifelong healthy living skills and developing outdoor leadership.

Wilderness Wheels grants are awarded based on the following criteria:

- Teachers/program administrators must contact the park or forest and agree on a date before submitting an application. Submission of an application does not guarantee that the park/forest will be able to accommodate all requests.
- School/students financial needs – the program is for Title I schools that have at least 50% of the student population qualifying for the free or reduced lunch program.
- Educational goals for the trip are identified.
- The visit provides a program identified as a priority.
- Visit is a part of a larger curriculum or segment of study.

Contacting State Parks and Forests:

- A list of participating state parks and forests is attached.
- Teachers/program administrators must schedule a visit directly with the park/forest.
- Parks/forests on this list have verified their general availability to provide programs for school groups.
- Parks/forests staff may not be able to accommodate all requests.
- Parks/forests staff may apply on behalf of the school/program.

Application Timeline:

- September thru November trips
 - Applications accepted from May 1 to September 15.
 - Applications will be reviewed and awards will be announced at the end of September.
- April and May trips
 - Applications accepted from November 1 to March 1.
 - Applications will be reviewed and awards will be announced at the end of March.
- Summer programming
 - Applications accepted May 1 thru July 1.
- Winter trips: Contact PPF for more information

WILDERNESS WHEELS APPLICATION

All Fields Must Be Completed

Part One: School Details What

season are you applying for?

Fall

Spring

Summer

Winter

If application is being completed by state park/forest staff, please click here:

Teacher/Program Coordinator First Name

Teacher/Program Coordinator Last Name

Teacher/Program Coordinator Email

Teacher/Program Coordinator Phone Number

School or Enrichment Program or Senior Center Name

School District Name

Federal Tax ID#

Address

Group Grade Level or Program Name

Demographics of population served:

(School Group): What percentage of students receive a free or reduced lunch program at the school?

(Community Organization): What is the mission of your community group and what population do you serve?

Part Two: Park & Plan Details

Note: You must contact the park or forest directly to verify their availability before submitting application.

Pennsylvania State Park or Forest Site Name

Planned Date to Visit

Name of State Park or Forest Contact

Primary Educational Objective for This Field Trip

How will participants prepare for this field trip?

What follow-up activities or assignments are planned for this trip?

Part Three: Program Participants

Total number of students/participants expected on trip

Total number of school/program staff expected on trip

Total number of other volunteers/parent chaperones expected on trip

Round trip mileage to/from park or forest visited

Part Four: Estimated Expenses

Transportation for the group

Other transportation needs (adaptive bus, etc.)

Are there other costs associated with this trip?

Total Cost

Amount of award requested (maximum \$600)

Is there any additional information and/or comments you feel are relevant to this application that are not already included?

By submitting this application I agree to the following:

- I agree that all arrangements for transportation will be made by the applicant, according to school or location policies.
- I agree to submit a trip evaluation form within 60 days of the trip.
- I agree to submit at least two pictures from the trip that can be used on the Foundation's website (follow school protocol and submit only released photos; we do not need release forms). Additionally, unless you have clearly declined in writing prior to your visit, photos taken on the day of the event by park/forest staff, teachers, or other photographers can be used by the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation for purposes of promoting the Wilderness Wheels program, the Foundation, or the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.
- I agree to submit final expense invoice within 60 days of trip for award fulfillment (if invoice is not submitted within 60 days of the visit, the Foundation will not be responsible for fulfilling the award).

Signature of Applicant