



## **North Carolina Outdoor Heritage Advisory Council**

### **GO Grant Guidelines [Revised - November 30, 2022]**

#### **A. Eligibility**

1. Applications will be considered for programs/field trips/or structures that will further outdoor education and recreation while supporting school curriculum objectives
2. Be advised that GO Grants **do NOT fund**:
  - Indoor programs/field trips
  - School beautification projects
  - Playgrounds
  - Lunch areas
  - Enclosed buildings (excluding greenhouses and animal barns etc.)
  - Gym/sports equipment (e.g., basketball hoops, ping-pong tables)
  - Electronics (e.g., computers, Wi-Fi equipment)
3. The following organizations are eligible to apply for a GO Grant:
  - K-12 Schools (Public, Private, Charter)
  - Homeschool Associations
  - Residential Facilities (e.g., Children's Homes)
  - 501-c3 businesses/organizations (501-c3 businesses/organizations must have goals that align with OHAC's mission AND/OR have the capability to adopt OHAC's brand/mission).
4. Any school employee may apply for a GO Grant. Employees of field trip destinations may also apply on behalf of a school. GO Grant funds will be awarded to the school directly.
5. There is **no application deadline**, applications are considered on a rolling basis. Funds are limited so we encourage applicants to apply as soon as possible.
6. Each school is eligible to receive **one grant per class/grade each school year** i.e., multiple applications for the same groups of students will be rejected, however, multiple applications for different groups of students will be considered.

7. Applications will be considered for programs/field trips/or structures that will further outdoor education and recreation while supporting school curriculum objectives.

## **B. Award amounts**

1. GO Grant applications will be considered for the following amounts (where funds are available):
  - Up to \$2,500 for on-campus outdoor programs
  - Up to \$3,000 for off-campus outdoor field trips
  - Up to \$15,000 for on-campus outdoor learning centers/structures and/or greenhouses
2. The Council will determine the amounts awarded to 501-c3 businesses/organizations and other entities on a case-by-case basis.

## **C. Applications**

1. GO Grant Applications must be completed in their entirety, no sections shall be left blank. Failure to complete the application in full will result in rejection.
2. Applications must be signed and dated by the both the applicant and a witness
3. Should changes need to be made to the original application (before or after a grant has been awarded) applicants must complete a GO Grant Amendment Form. If funds have already been awarded, grant recipients **must not** spend grant funds until the amendment has been approved by OHAC.
4. If the **applicant teacher leaves the recipient school**, the school must complete a GO Grant Amendment form detailing which teacher will be taking over the program/field trip/structure project. Recipient schools **must not** spend grant funds until the amendment has been approved by OHAC.

## **D. Grant Funds and Expense Reporting**

1. Applications will be considered for programs/field trips/or structures that will further outdoor education and recreation while supporting school curriculum objectives.
2. An outdoor learning center/structure **must** be able to accommodate an entire class.
3. Shipping costs **must not** exceed more than 5% of the total amount requested.
4. Grant funds **must not** be spent on items that were not approved by the Council in the original GO Grant Application or in a GO Grant Amendment. If a GO Grant recipient spends grant funds improperly, OHAC will require the recipient to return **all** improperly spent funds.

5. GO Grant funds must be expended by the recipient within 60 days of receipt. Should a recipient need to adjust their project timeline see **C.3**.
6. Within 30 days of GO Grant project completion, the recipient must submit **receipts** to OHAC (receipt, bank statement, copy of cancelled check) showing that grant funds have been paid out and have been used for purchases approved in the GO Grant Application of GO Grant Amendment. OHAC **cannot accept** invoices, order forms, or email correspondence as proof of purchase.
7. Within 30 days of GO Grant project completion, the recipient must **return all unspent funds** to OHAC.
8. Within 30 days of GO Grant project completion, the recipient must **submit photos** of the project to [ohac.grants@nc.gov](mailto:ohac.grants@nc.gov)
9. 501-c3 business/organization recipients must adopt OHAC programming and signage.

#### **E. Grant Approval**

1. The Grant Selection Committee (GSC) shall consider geographic diversity when approving grants.
2. Priority will be given to applications that target underserved youth aged 4-16, who are not traditionally outdoors, and/or do not have opportunities to participate in outdoor activities.
3. OHAC reserves the right to reject an application at any time and for any reason.