

NC Outdoor Heritage Advisory Council



Total Grants Awarded
707

Total Students Impacted
223,651

Total Counties Impacted
92

Who We Are

Our mission is to preserve the health, heritage, and natural resources of our great state by inspiring a new generation of outdoor adventurers. The Council provides leadership, guidance, and funding through programs and initiatives statewide, providing kids and teens with opportunities to encounter and experience the outdoors.

One of our primary initiatives, the Patch Program, rewards youth for participating in various outdoor activities, such as hunting, fishing, hiking, and kayaking. We also award Go Outside (GO) Grants to NC schools that provide them with funds for field trips or on-campus structures to facilitate and enhance outdoor education.

The Council

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Go Outside (GO) Grant Program

In the spring of 2019, we launched our GO Grant Program. These grants are awarded to schools to support outdoor learning through educational field trips or construction of on-campus outdoor learning centers. Since its creation there have been 707 GO Grants and 37 proposals awarded in 92 counties with over 223,651 students impacted. As of December 7th, \$4,886,288.62 have been awarded toward grants and proposals since the program's establishment.

Award Amounts

- Up to \$15,000 for on-campus learning centers/structures and greenhouses
- Up to \$3,000 for off-campus field trips
- Up to \$2,500 for on-campus activities and programs

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

For fiscal year 2022-2023 the General Assembly appropriated \$2 million in non-recurring funds in July 2022. As of December 7th, the Council has awarded \$1,196,175.12 of the \$2 million appropriated with a breakdown of \$840,664.74 for on-campus structures/activities and \$355,510.38 for off-campus field trips. Since July 2022, 268 Grants have been awarded- impacting 51,075 students.



Macon Middle School (Macon Co.)

GO Grant #823: Highlands Aerial Park

The seventh through eighth-grade students went zip-lining and hiking at the 100-acre park. Prior to going on the trip, the students studied the physics behind the zip lines focusing on the potential and kinetic energy as well as acceleration and velocity.

Willow Springs Elementary School (Wake Co.)

GO Grant #759: Carolina Ocean Studies

The fourth-grade students went to Masonboro Island to learn about different animals and ecosystems on the Island. Once there, the students split into groups to participate in a scavenger hunt where they learned about the native animal habitats, North Carolina seashells, and went crabbing (to catch and release crabs).





*Davidson River Alternative School
(Transylvania Co.)*

Go Grant #811: Davidson River

The ninth through tenth-grade students went river paddling on the French Broad and Davidson River. Here the students learned about and analyzed the flow and energy of cycling matter (water) through ecosystems and were taught the various ways in which the organisms there interact.

*Francine Delaney New School
(Buncombe Co.)*

Grant #777: Sound to Sea

The sixth through eighth-grade students went on a 3-day/2-night trip to Kinston, North Carolina. Here, the students studied the coastal ecology, including salt water, marine, marsh, pond, beach, and maritime forest ecosystems. They participated in evening activities, including night hikes and squid dissection.



North Liberty School (Burke Co.)

GO Grant #507: Covered Outdoor Classroom

The covered outdoor classroom is being utilized by the whole school, grades pre-kindergarten through twelfth. The structure contains convertible benches, a wooden stage, and sensory stations.



Teacher Quotes

Willow Springs Elementary School – Grant #759

Wake County

“I wanted to thank you for the grant money you gave us for our 4th Grade field trip! All of the classes have now had the opportunity to go on the trip and we all had an amazing time! The students were so excited about their experiences on the Battleship and Masonboro Island. On the Battleship, they do a self-guided tour with their chaperone and when we get to Carolina Beach Marina, Carolina Ocean Studies takes over and teaches the students all about the animals found on the island, their habitats and so many other things! Once on the island, students get to experience crabbing (and touch one if they want!), learn about different seashells and take a few home, and go on a scavenger hunt for creatures in the marsh and create a habitat out of a shell and materials found on the island.

We here at Willow Springs are so grateful to you for providing us with money to lower the cost of the field trip so that it was affordable for all students. Thank you so much for your kindness.” – N. Rasey (4th Grade Teacher)

Macon Middle School – Grant #823

Macon County

“The Macon Middle STEM field trip to Highlands Aerial Park was a huge success. Students had completed pre-lab classroom investigations before the field trip. It was fantastic for our students to experience real-world science in action. Many of our students overcame their fears to experience the zip-lines and giant swing - we could not be more proud of them.” – G. Wilkinson (STEM)

Colfax Elementary School – Grant #924

Guilford County

“The fourth-grade team at Colfax Elementary would like to thank you for your help with contributing funds for our outdoor field trip to the Hollow Gem Mine in Hiddenite, NC. Our fourth graders enjoyed visiting four different stations to learn more about gemstones and the rock cycle while having hands-on experience with mining. They found gemstones in the open terrain, in a shallow stream, and through slushing. Their learning took place while enjoying the great outdoors. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity.” – J. Peaslee (4th Grade Teacher)

Upcoming GO Grants

GO Grant #867 – Lincoln Charter School

Lincoln County

A greenhouse will be built for the whole school to utilize. The students will be working in the garden and learning what it takes to grow their own food. During the summer, the kids will also be able to sign up to care for the garden. Outside the greenhouse, there will be a pollinator garden. The garden will contribute to a food pantry box which will be shared with those in the community.

GO Grant #884 – Carolina International Charter

Cabarrus County

A 2-mile, 4-foot-wide nature trail will be created on the school's 83-acre property. The nature trail will allow students to engage in the outdoors, wildlife watching, and observing nature. Natural rocks and signage will be posted along the trail.

GO Grant #969 – Martin County Innovation Campus

Martin County

A mini farm will be built, equipped with a run-in shed and secure fencing for animals, such as pigs, chickens, miniature horses, goats, and lambs.

GO Grant #1030 – Southeast Area Technical High School (SEA-Tech)

New Hanover County

The ninth and tenth-grade students, 110 in total, will be going to Swamp Park. Students will participate in a guided boat tour through a swamp, hike through the woodland, participate in high ropes aerial adventure course, and learn about the American Alligator.

GO Grant #1038 – Sugar Loaf Elementary

Alexander County

The fifth-grade students, 37 in total, will be going to YMCA Camp Herring Ridge. Students will participate in three different target courses: BB gun, archery, and slingshot. They also participated in ropes courses, climbing walls, canoeing or kayaking, and hiking.

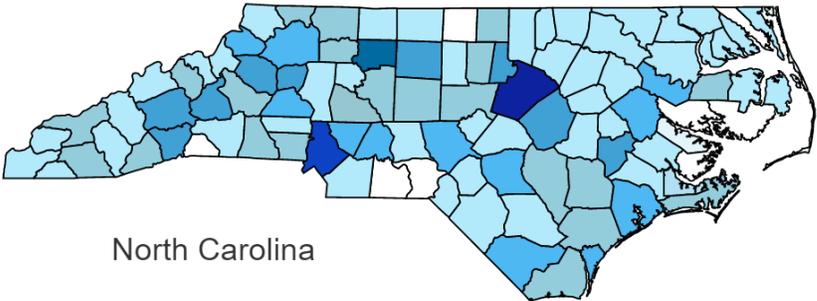
GO Grant #1041 – White Oak High School

Onslow County

A structure will be built with the help of the carpentry class to allow further student engagement. The proposed structure will be a 40 x 8-foot pavilion with large open doorways that can be screened at different times. The students will be able to visit the apiary and study the different behaviors of the colonies while bee keeping.

MAP TO SHOW THE DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS AWARDED BY COUNTY

(2019-2023)



1-5	16-20	31-35
6-10	21-25	36-40
11-15	26-30	41+

Fig. 1

As can be seen in **Figure 1**, most grants have been applied for and awarded in counties Wake, Durham, Johnston, Lenoir, Guilford, Forsyth, Caldwell, McDowell, Buncombe, and Henderson.

The least grants (or zero) have been applied for and awarded in counties Camden, Hyde, Beaufort, Pamlico, Caswell, Richmond, Anson, and Polk.

By actively working with legislators, council members, and school administrations, it is the goal of the Council to have awarded grants in all one hundred counties in the next fiscal year.

Counties shown in **Figure 1** are listed (in alphabetical order) on the following page in detail, along with the number of grants they were awarded.

Impacted Counties

In reference to *Figure 1*

Alamance – 2	Forsyth - 22	Onslow – 12
Alexander – 17	Franklin – 5	Orange – 8
Alleghany – 9	Gaston – 10	Pamlico – 0
Anson – 0	Gates – 1	Pasquotank – 5
Ashe – 1	Graham – 2	Pender – 6
Avery – 2	Granville – 4	Perquimans – 2
Beaufort – 0	Greene – 4	Person – 2
Bertie – 2	Guilford – 18	Pitt – 11
Bladen – 4	Halifax – 3	Polk – 0
Brunswick – 10	Harnett – 5	Randolph – 6
Buncombe – 17	Haywood – 3	Richmond – 0
Burke – 6	Henderson – 19	Robeson – 2
Cabarrus – 13	Hertford – 2	Rockingham – 5
Caldwell – 19	Hoke – 4	Rowan – 10
Camden – 0	Hyde – 0	Rutherford – 5
Carteret – 8	Iredell – 5	Sampson – 7
Caswell – 0	Jackson – 4	Scotland – 1
Catawba – 15	Johnston – 17	Stanly – 12
Chatham – 8	Jones – 1	Stokes – 4
Cherokee – 4	Lee – 3	Surry – 7
Chowan – 2	Lenoir – 20	Swain – 2
Clay – 3	Lincoln – 4	Transylvania – 10
Cleveland – 8	Macon – 9	Tyrrell – 1
Columbus – 11	Madison – 4	Union – 4
Craven – 2	Martin – 12	Vance – 1
Cumberland – 11	McDowell – 17	Wake – 43
Currituck – 2	Mecklenburg – 29	Warren – 2
Dare – 1	Mitchell – 4	Washington – 7
Davidson – 8	Montgomery – 4	Watauga – 15
Davie – 1	Moore – 12	Wayne – 5
Duplin – 10	Nash – 4	Wilkes – 11
Durham – 18	New Hanover – 13	Wilson – 1
Edgecombe – 3	Northampton – 1	Yadkin – 5
		Yancey – 5

NC Outdoor Heritage Patch Program

The Patch Program was launched in 2019 to incentivize North Carolina’s youth to try out different outdoor activities and reward them for successful completion of a variety of experiences. As adult participation is integral to children earning these patches, family outdoor learning experiences are encouraged, supported, and rewarded.

Two categories of patches were created: *Achievement* and *Successful*. Both patches are available to be earned by individuals of all ages. Patches are free to NC residents ages 16 and under. Out-of-state residents and anyone aged 17 or older must donate \$5 (per patch). The patches are designed and manufactured by A-B Emblem, a company based in Weaverville, North Carolina.

Achievement patches are earned once and require an individual to demonstrate their proficiency in an activity by completing certain criteria, including tutorial videos, workbooks, and online courses. In combination with a photo submission, these supplementary activities set a base level of competency for a prospective earner to demonstrate. The supplementary activities and resources have been provided through partnerships with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, International Game Fish Association, and the Foothills Public Shooting Complex. These patches can be earned for proficiency in archery, rifles, shotguns, and fishing.

Successful patches are limited edition and can be earned on an annual basis for demonstrating completion of an outdoor activity. These patches are redesigned on an annual basis and can be sub-divided into three distinct categories, made up of 14 patches, which provide a broad and inclusive selection of activities for families from diverse backgrounds:

<i>Hunting</i>	<i>Fishing</i>	<i>Adventure activities</i>
Bear	Brook trout	Bird watching
Deer	Catfish	Camping
Duck	Dolphinfish	Hiking
Turkey	Largemouth bass	Paddle adventuring
	Red drum	
	Striped bass	

Participation in the Program has been steady and patch requests are frequently received from all geographic areas of the state. Prospective patch earners range from serious outdoor enthusiast families pursuing hunting and fishing and families pursuing more readily accessible activities such as bird watching and hiking.

In response to the positive participation in the program, two additional patches have been designed to be launched in 2023: the *Successful Horseback Rider* and *My First Fish* patches. Requirements to earn the patch will be the same as the other *Successful* patches. *My First Fish* is aimed at younger children who may be experiencing fishing for the first time and, therefore, can be earned for successful capture of any fish species (freshwater or marine).

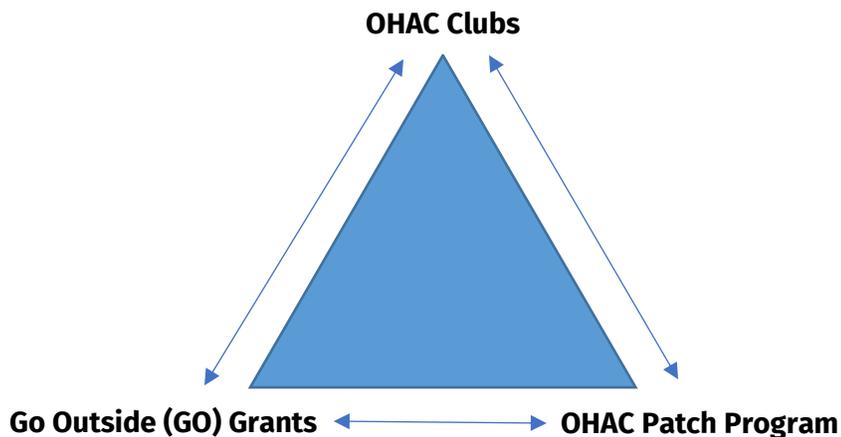
NC Outdoor Heritage Clubs

NC Outdoor Heritage Clubs is an initiative in development, to provide a framework and experiential curriculum to K-12 schools that wish to form an outdoor activities club.

The clubs will serve to provide outdoor enthusiast students with an extra-curricular activity that aligns with their interests, but also to provide opportunities for students with no prior experience or restricted access to the outdoors (whether it be for socio-economic or transportation challenges) to try new experiences.

Within the overarching structure, the Outdoor Heritage Clubs will naturally complement and support both the existing Patch Program and Go Outside (GO) Grants, as prospective participants can earn patches within the clubs and, by virtue of additional outdoor learning opportunities, there is an added incentive for schoolteachers to apply for grant funding.

Fig. 2



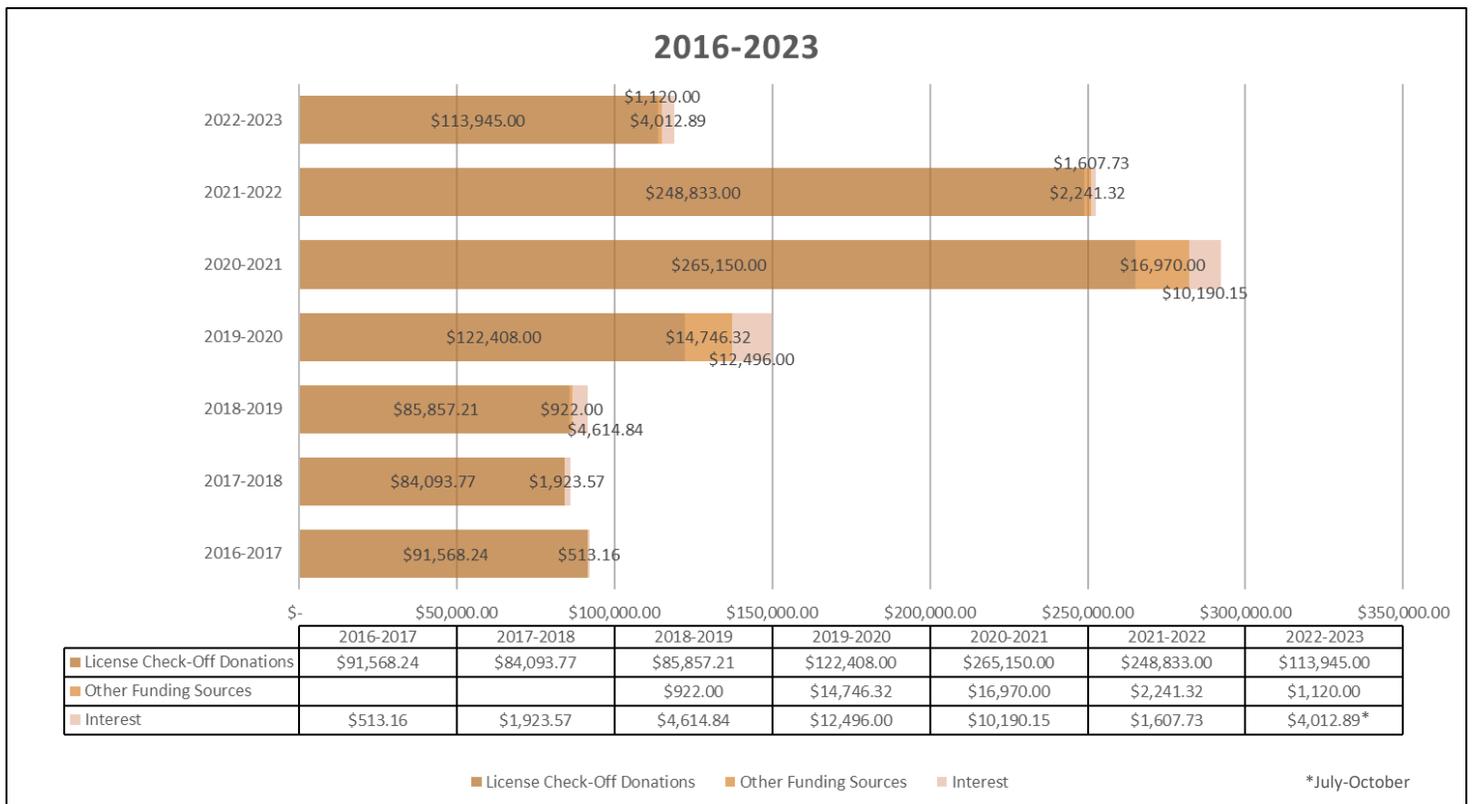
Program development has been outlined into 3 distinct stages, with a strategy and timeline that aims to build out the program in 2023.

- Stage 1:**
 - Creation of a brand identity and marketing strategy
 - Development of an Outdoor Heritage curriculum and club framework
 - Identification of potential sponsors
- Stage 2:**
 - Trial run of the pilot program with a selected group of geographically diverse schools
 - Pilot program evaluation and continued development
- Stage 3:**
 - Statewide release of the program

2022 has seen work begin on Stage 1 of development, with the initial phase of brand creation and curriculum development underway.

North Carolina Outdoor Heritage Trust Fund for Youth Outdoor Heritage Promotion

The North Carolina Outdoor Heritage Trust Fund for Youth Outdoor Heritage Promotion was established in 2015 by the General Assembly. When an individual purchases a hunting, fishing, trapping or vessel license they have the opportunity to donate \$1 to \$100 directly to the trust fund.



Final Year Totals	
2016-2017	\$92,081.40
2017-2018	\$86,017.34
2018-2019	\$91,394.05
2019-2020	\$149,650.15
2020-2021	\$292,310.15
2021-2022	\$252,682.05
2022-2023	\$115,065.00*
	*July-November

NC Outdoor Heritage Advisory Council



1715 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

outdoorheritage.nc.gov

919.707.4030

info@ncoutdoorheritage.org

Justin Burr – Executive Director

Alan Pomeroy – Program Director

Megan Law – Communications Manager

Layne Randolph – Fundraising & Finance Manager

Natalia Almeida – Grants Manager

Noel Griffin – Outreach & Engagement Manager