



Washington Office of Superintendent of  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

# Outdoor Learning Grants Program



## Recreation and Conservation Office

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## Grant Applications Open 2025

### Grant Limits

Applicants may request \$10,000 to \$300,000. No matching resources are required.

### Who May Apply?

Native American tribes and outdoor education providers who partner with Washington public schools to offer programming for their students.

### How to Apply

For more information on how to apply, please visit the website at <https://rco.wa.gov/grant/outdoor-learning-grants/>

## Opportunities to Learn Outside in Meaningful and Engaging Ways

The Outdoor Learning Grants (OLG) program aims to develop and support outdoor experiential education for Washington's public school students in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grades.

### Grant Impacts

In 2023, the Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) awarded \$3.7 million in grants to twenty-seven projects across Washington State, serving an estimated 40,000 youth over two years. The projects focused on communities historically underserved by science and outdoor education, including students in tribal communities, rural and remote schools, and alternative learning environments, as well as students experiencing poverty, students who are migratory, students of color, multilingual learners, and students with disabilities.

### Eligible Projects

Eligible projects include those focused on outdoor education aligned with the Washington State K-12 Learning Standards, including the development of social-emotional skills. Applicants are encouraged to include the *Since Time Immemorial: Tribal Sovereignty in Washington State* curriculum into the field experiences for students. Activities can take place during and after school, as well as in the summer.

### Typical Projects

Typical projects are hands-on, environmental education and nature-based learning experiences. This includes learning about habitat restoration to participating in environmental stewardship activities. Other projects include professional development in natural resources careers, citizen science, and more!



# Investing in Washington's Youth

## Outdoor Learning in Action

Outdoor Learning Grant programs provide an extremely wide range of outdoor educational experiences for students and youth under the age of nineteen. Below are examples of funded projects.



### South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group–The Salmon in the Schools Program

The Salmon in the Schools program takes place in elementary schools in Mason and Thurston Counties. In the fall, the salmon enhancement group delivers a salmon life cycle lesson. Each year, schools receive 125 to 200 chum salmon eggs to raise. Aquariums are placed in school common areas to allow the entire school to witness the salmon life cycle firsthand every day. In the spring, students visit a local creek to assess the habitat, discuss salmon as a keystone species, create salmon artwork, play a salmon survival math game, then name and release their fish into the wild.

### Lummi Indian Business Council–The Waters of the Lummi Program

The Lummi Natural Resources Department is facilitating “Waters of the Lhaq'temish (Lummi)” to connect youth to the waterways and their traditional “Shelangen” (way of life). Up to 350 Native students in grades five to twelve will participate in field trips to experience the watershed from Mount Baker along the Nooksack River to its delta and on to the San Juan Islands. Staff, in partnership with tribal elders and community organizations, will teach students from Lummi Nation School and Native youth in the Ferndale School District traditional skills and knowledge, social-emotional learning, natural history, marine biology and conservation, and career-connected learning.



### Methow Field Institute–The Nature Immersion Program

The Nature Immersion program engages fourth to twelfth graders from the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and Okanogan County. Two-hundred youth will participate in a combination of field trips, classroom lessons, and ecological and summer camps in “Cultural Pathways” and “Forest Ambassadors” programs, where they will experience traditional food systems, crafts, and knowledge, as well as gain career-connected learning in forestry, fire management, and conservation that will enhance their environmental ethics and holistic thinking.