

2026 Youth Engagement Grants

**Utah Children's
Outdoor Recreation
and Education**

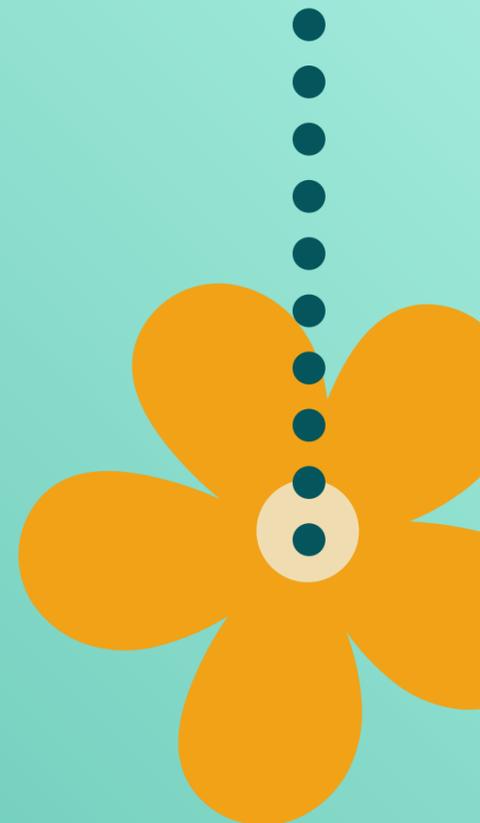


Outdoor Classroom

Division of Outdoor Recreation Funding

Millions of \$ in Grants for:

- New Trails
- Restoration Work
- Water recreation
- SAR
- Safety Messaging
- Parks, playgrounds, pickleball and pools
- Campgrounds
- OHV Trails
- Planning



Youth Engagement Team



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1500 participants
12 events

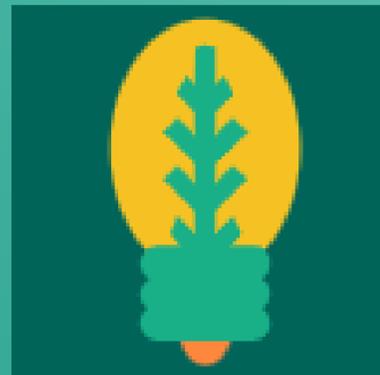


EVERY KID OUTDOORS
ADVENTURE
CHALLENGE

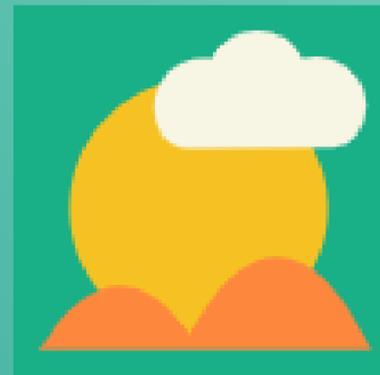


Grants offered by the Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation with goals to:

Empower Youth



Connect Students with Nature



Teach New Skills



Foster Stewardship



Need to Know



**Up to \$15,000 per
Application**

**Application
Opens September
2nd**

18 Month Contracts

**Closes October
17th**

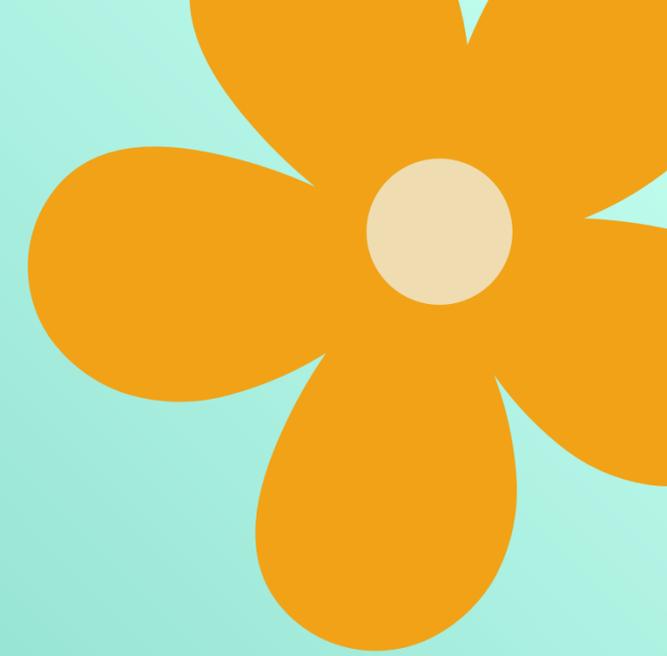
**20% Suggested
Match (some can be
in-kind)**



Eligibility

Grants are open to:

- **Educational Institutions - Charter, Public, Montessori, Private**
- **Non-Profits**
- **Local Government - Cities, Counties, Recreation Districts**
- **Tribal Governments**



Outdoor Classroom

Outdoor learning has been shown to

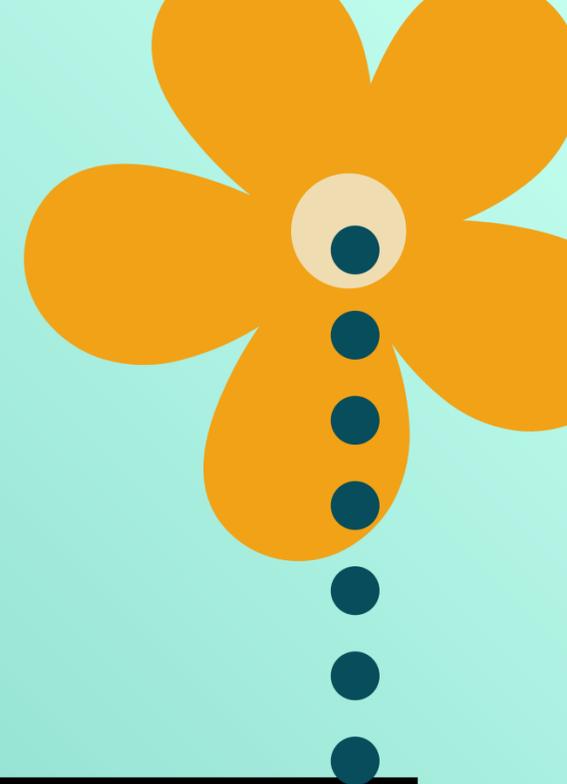
- Reduce Stress**
- Build Confidence**
- Develop Social Skills**
- Foster Creativity**
- Build Resilience**
- Lower Anxiety**
- Improve Attention**



- **Amphitheaters**
- **Pergolas**
- **Picnic Tables**
- **Pollinator Gardens**
- **Landscaping**
- **Involve students in plan!**



Utah Outdoor Classroom Grant DESIGN GUIDE



STEP 1: Set Goals

Before you begin designing your outdoor classroom, it is important to establish the educational goals that you want the space to fulfill. These goals should guide the design decisions you make in subsequent steps. Begin by answering the following questions:

What missing need should this outdoor classroom fulfill and how?

Who will be taught in this space? (e.g. 3rd Grade Only, K-6, 7-9, 9-12)

What nature-based STEM curriculum will be taught in this classroom?

What other activities could/should take place in this space?

What other goals do you want this space to achieve?

STEP 2: Get to Know Your School Grounds

Your outdoor classroom design will be more effective if it responds to the unique context of your school. Complete the following tasks to gain a better understanding of the school grounds.

TASK 1 - GET PERMISSION

Reach out to your school administration to identify what areas you have permission to modify using this funding.

TASK 2 - OBTAIN A MAP

Obtain a map of the school grounds. Your school facilities office may provide a physical or digital map of the school grounds. If they don't have one, you can use the [Utah Parcel Viewer](#) or [Google Maps](#) imagery to get a map of the grounds.

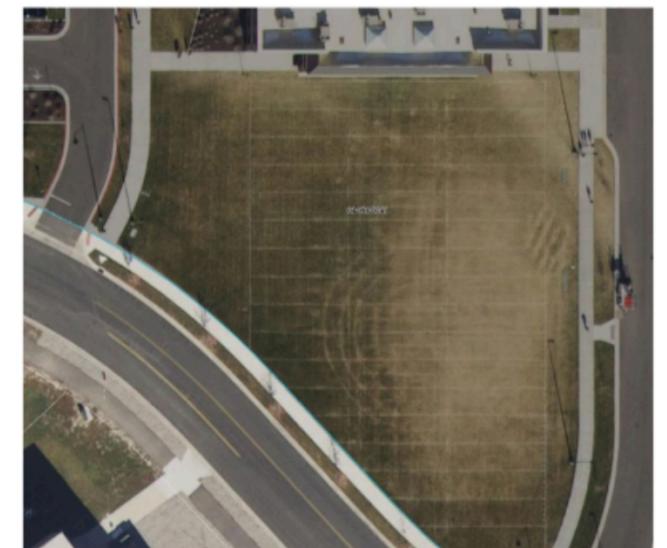


Figure 1 - Site Map Example



UCORE Activities

Nature Discovery:

- Birdwatching
- Junior naturalist activities
- Nature study (including scientific-oriented activities)
- Outdoor stewardship activities
- Planting a seed
- Stargazing/astronomy
- Wildlife viewing
- Wildlife photography

Trail Activities:

- Backpacking
- Bicycling (all types)
- Equestrian (trail)
- Hiking
- Off-road vehicles
 - (UTV or ATV)
- Trail running

Water Sports

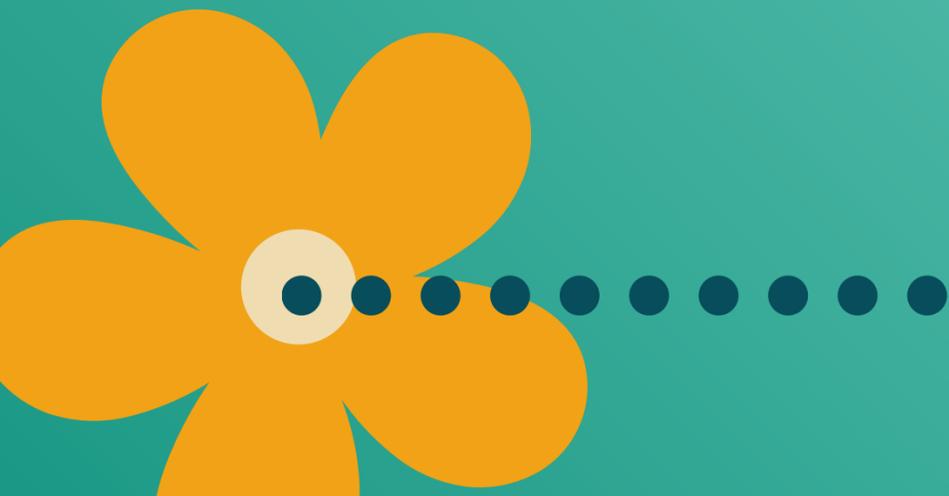
- Boating (motorized)
- Canoeing/kayaking/rafting
- Fishing (all types)
- Sailing
- Snorkeling/scuba diving
- Stand-up paddleboarding
- Outdoor swimming

Outdoor Adventures:

- Outdoor adventure challenge course
- Camping
- Canyoneering/rappelling
- Climbing (all types)
- Navigation and/or geocaching biathlon
- Skateboarding
- Slacklining
- Outdoor yoga
- Shooting Sports (archery, biathlon)

Winter Sports:

- Ice Skating
- Snowshoeing
- Skiing (all types)
- Snowboarding



UCORE Eligibility Costs

Eligible Cost	Ineligible Costs
Full-time and seasonal staffing payroll	Physical infrastructure. If your program needs outdoor classroom space or pavilion, please refer to the Outdoor Classroom grant available during the Spring
Transportation: fuel costs for staff travel, rental/charter fees for busses or vans, purchase of trailers and bike racks	Related costs for out-of-state travel. All travel must be within Utah state boundaries
Fabrication of educational materials: printing brochures, workbooks and maps	Printing of marketing materials and material design costs
Food for volunteers and program participants	Meal reimbursements for staff
Lodging costs for student participants	Lodging costs for staff
Insurance coverage for staff and/or participants	Facility rental, utilities or costs associated with a program's physical meeting space
Entry fees for field trips and education-based events	Staff trainings
Scholarships for underserved/underrepresented youth	
SWAG/incentive items for volunteers and participants	
Program equipment: outdoor specific gear, first aid kits, safety equipment	

UCORE Projects

Hunter High Goes Outside

It let me experience things I've never done before. Something I learned about myself is how I was able to push myself and it surprised me because I thought I wasn't able to do some things. It has helped me become more outgoing, to do things I haven't done before, and to not take things for granted- like savoring these moments. The people in this class have made this all more fun because it has helped us connect. I met a lot of new people and am going to cherish it. - Abril C.



CELEBRATION & CONNECTION

Bears Ears Partnership

Seven Creeks Walk



Park City Day School

Tooele Education Foundation



BUDGET AND APPLICATION OVERVIEW

PORTAL LINK

**2026 YOUTH ENGAGEMENT
RESOURCES**

