



Grant Application

(Requests equal to or less than \$7,500)

Applicant Information

School or Organization Name: City of Reno Date: 10/4/2024

Contact Person: Landon Miller Fund Development Manager,
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City State ZIP Code

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Project Name:
City of Reno Park Rangers Aquatic Ecosystems Exploration

Which best describes your organization?

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public School | <input type="checkbox"/> Home School | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private School | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit Organization | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Charter School | <input type="checkbox"/> Community-Based Organization | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Which best describes the project/program type?

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Both Outdoor Education and Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Cultural Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural/ Ranching | <input type="checkbox"/> Workforce Development |

From which Nevada county/counties or tribal lands will students served be from?
Washoe County

How many Nevada students will be directly impacted if selected?

150-200

What grade levels will the project serve?

- ☐ Preschool ☒ Elementary School ☒ Middle School ☐ High School

Do the students you serve qualify for the following?

- | | | |
|--|----------------------|-------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Students facing barriers to outdoors | If so, what percent? | <u>80%</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Free/reduced lunch* | If so, what percent? | <u>73 %</u> |

*To determine the percentage of students on free and reduced lunch, visit https://agri.nv.gov/Resources/Data_and_Reports/Food_and_Nutrition/SN/SN_Data_Reports/ and use the latest school year data for the school(s) where participants are based. If programming will be based at multiple schools please use data from whichever school will have the highest participation. If programming is community based, please use data from the school nearest the programming site or audience.

Please explain how your audience faces barriers to the outdoors (250 words max):

If granted, our audience primarily will consist of fourth graders from Hunter Lake Elementary School (68% Free Reduced Price Lunch (FRPL)), seventh graders from Clayton Middle School (73% FRPL), and children in the City of Reno's Sierra Kids program at Evelyn Mount Northeast Community Center (nearest school Glen Duncan 100% FRPL), which provides spring, summer and fall break camps. We have made initial contact with Clayton to gauge interest, while our own Sierra Kids Program is excited about the opportunity to have this be a field trip option. These students face multiple barriers to accessing outdoor environments. One of the most significant obstacles is the lack of financial resources, both at home and within the schools themselves, which limits their ability to afford transportation and outdoor equipment. Many families live in urban areas where access to safe, open, green spaces is limited, and the opportunity to experience nature on a meaningful level is rare.

In addition, these students come from lower-income households, where recreational activities and field trips are not financially feasible. We will provide them with this field trip opportunity. Without access to outdoor programs like the City of Reno Aquatic Ecosystems Exploration Initiative, many of these students would not have the opportunity to explore the local ecosystems and learn about the environment firsthand.

By offering transportation and covering program costs, we remove these financial and logistical barriers, giving students the opportunity to experience nature, engage in hands-on learning, and develop a sense of stewardship for the environment.

Organizational Overview

Please tell us about your organization (350 words max)

The City of Reno Parks and Recreation Department is committed to providing access to outdoor spaces and recreational opportunities for all members of the community. Our Park Rangers play a vital role in this mission by acting as stewards of the City's parks, open spaces, and wildlife habitats. Their work ensures that these natural areas are clean, safe, and accessible to the public. Beyond maintaining park spaces, our Park Rangers engage the community in educational programs that emphasize environmental stewardship and sustainable outdoor practices.

The City of Reno Park Rangers offer a variety of educational and volunteer opportunities that connect people with nature. Programs like the Junior Ranger Program, and wildlife-based activities help instill a sense of responsibility and stewardship in young people. The Rangers also work closely with local community organizations, such as Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful, to organize park and river cleanups and other environmental initiatives. In addition to their environmental work, we would like to create another easy opportunity with this micro-grant funding for our Park Rangers to provide outdoor learning opportunities for local students. We have four full time park rangers with two more expected by January 2025.

By partnering with Washoe County schools and our own Sierra Kids Spring, Fall, and Summer break programs, they will deliver hands-on lessons in local ecosystems, wildlife conservation, and water quality, contributing to a deeper understanding of the region's natural resources. Our Rangers strive to foster a love for the outdoors in our youth, empowering them to care for and protect the natural spaces around them. This ongoing outreach effort ensures that future generations can continue to enjoy the beauty and benefits of Reno's parks and open spaces.

Proposed Scope of Work

Please provide a brief project description (350 words max)

The City of Reno **Aquatic Ecosystems Exploration Initiative** is a hands-on environmental educational field trip designed to connect local students with the natural ecosystems in their own community. Led by the City of Reno Park Rangers, this program will target fourth graders from Hunter Lake Elementary and seventh graders from Clayton Middle School, as well as students enrolled in the Sierra Kids Spring, Summer, and Fall Break camps. The program will provide high-quality outdoor education experiences for students who may otherwise face barriers to accessing nature, such as transportation and financial constraints. Some of our Park Rangers are former educators and are looking for ways to connect with more youth in Washoe County. By providing costs for materials and transportation, we can do just that.

Through this initiative, students will participate in one indoor lesson and an outdoor field experience at Oxbow Nature Study Area or Idlewild Park, where they will explore riparian zones and stream ecosystems. The curriculum will focus on plant biodiversity, aquatic insects, water quality testing, and the overall importance of healthy water systems to the environment and community. These hands-on activities are designed to enhance students' understanding of their local environment, instill a sense of stewardship for the Truckee River watershed, and promote physical and mental well-being through outdoor engagement.

We will offer twelve total lessons in 2025.

Sierra Kids Camps:

- One spring break session (two lessons)
- One fall break session (two lessons) OR One summer break session (two lessons)

Elementary School:

- One spring session (two lessons)
- One Fall session (two lessons)

Middle School:

- One fall session (two lessons)
- One spring session (two lessons)

This grant will cover the costs of transportation, which is a significant barrier for many schools and our own participants in Sierra Kids programming. We will rent Washoe County School District transportation services, with estimated costs attached to the grant proposal.

The City will contribute in-kind support by providing Park Ranger staff time to lead the educational programming. The project will offer a meaningful outdoor experience that fosters environmental awareness, community engagement, and an appreciation for the natural world while expanding awareness of our Ranger program and activate public parks.

Budget Request

Please submit the program/project budget request using the Nevada Outdoor Education and Recreation budget spreadsheet template.

Disclaimer and Signature

I certify that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

If this application is selected for funding, I understand that false or misleading information in my application or presentations may result in the termination of the grant.

Signature: _____ Date: _____