



Application for Nature Based Outdoor Education Resources: Together, creating equitable outdoor learning spaces for all kids.

Funding Provided by: Central Audubon Society and Friends of Whitfield

Opportunity provided by: Valencia Soil and Water Conservation District

- Total funding available: \$8,752.
- Total funding that an individual educator at a local public school can apply for: \$500. (before tax)
- Total funding a local public school (multiple educators/staff/administrators) can apply for: \$1000. (before tax)

Application due date: Apply early! First come first serve! Application will close in February 2021.

Objective: The purpose of the funding is to help support nature-based activities for indoor and outdoor classroom curriculum to support environmental education. Access to the outdoors should be a human right, but sometimes there are inequities that leave many students lacking the needed resources to experience and learn from the environment. In order to bridge the gap between outdoor and in classroom learning, it is important for all students to have access to equitable resources that will enhance their learning experiences outdoors with an ultimate goal of creating future stewards of the environment who understand how to be environmentally aware in every aspect of their lives.

Who can apply? Any classroom teacher from a local public school within Valencia County can apply. We encourage local public schools representing a high percentage of low-income families to apply. We encourage more than one teacher/staff member per local public school to apply for increased awareness and funding. (up to two applications per school).

What types of resources will be funded?

- Nature Based Resources available for an individual classroom, grade level classes or multiple grade levels at a local public school.
- Nature Based Resources available for students (to keep at home or return to school after use)

What kinds of resources will this funding support? This funding will support outdoor resources that students can use to enhance outdoor educational experiences in their local environment.

Examples of nature-based resources include: nature journals, magnifying glasses, binoculars, water testing kits, microscopes, guides to wildlife, plants, and animals, seed starting kits, temperature and wind gauges, and rain gauges. (list and price options are available at the end of this application) Any resources that clearly relate to outdoor learning are accepted!

Please list the resources you will need to support your lesson, quantity, link to source of funding (or indicate you will be using one of the examples on this application), and a price total in your budget.

How will applicants be chosen? Applications will be evaluated on a first come first serve basis (until funding runs out). Applicant winners will be notified by email as soon as all applications are reviewed and consideration is complete.

If awarded the funding, what are the important next steps I can expect and what do I do for reporting? If your class/es are awarded, you will be notified within a few weeks that the purchasing process of your items have begun. Once notified, we will confirm the resource request, purchase your needed items, and schedule a pick-up date for you to collect your items at Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area, 24 24 HWY 47, Belen, NM 87002. These resources will be yours to keep with you or with your students.

It is critical we know how you incorporated these resources for your class/es this school year. We will be reaching out at the end of the school year in 2021 for photos, videos, lessons and other examples of students engaging in outdoor learning experiences throughout the school year and how these resources helped achieve those goals. Your commitment to environmental education will help create the needed change across the state for others to engage in the importance of outdoor education and how students can incorporate the environment in their every-day lives.

Important to consider: When thinking about resources to enhance outdoor learning, consider items that most students may not have available and that can function for many different subjects, projects and objectives and can be used multiple times and in multiple ways.

What other nature-based opportunity is connected with this funding opportunity? Valencia Soil and Water Conservation District's Whitfield Education Programs is partnering with the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge and will be providing nature-based lessons and activities for individual grade levels directly aligned with Next Generation Science Standards and designed to get kids outside to help understand the local ecosystem. These lessons will be available on YouTube upon request. To sign up for this opportunity as a connected lesson to help strengthen environmental education opportunities for local students for school year 2020/2021, please email Education Program Manager, Allison Martin at allisonmartin@valenciaswcd.org to receive a registration form. Make sure to include all grade levels that want to participate.

How do I return the application? Please fill out the application questions below and return by emailing allisonmartin@valenciaswcd.org no later than November 1st at 5:00pm. Make sure you fill out all of the questions for your application to be considered. Since this is a first come first serve opportunity, the first complete and accurate applications will be considered.

Questions? Please contact Education Program Manager, Allison Martin at allisonmartin@valenciaswcd.org

For the latest information about our programs, please visit our facebook page: www.facebook.com/WhitfieldPrograms

Application Questions:

***Please fill out the following questions and return this portion of the application to: allisonmartin@valenciaswcd.org
subject line: "Outdoor Nature Based Resource Application" as soon as possible.***

School Name:

School Website:

Your Name/s and Title/s:

Email Address/es:

Primary Phone Number:

Secondary contact name and email:

Is this funding supporting one class or multiple classes? Please list all classes and students the resources will support?

What grade level/s will these resources be supporting?

How will these resources be used to enhance your curriculum in school year 2020/2021? -Please indicate the many ways in which you are anticipating incorporating outdoor education with the use of the resources requested into your lessons throughout the school year.

Budget: How much funding are you seeking? Please attach a detailed budget of number of items being requested, price estimate and total. To help ensure consistency in the applications, a sample budget is provided at the end of the application for reference. For multiple teachers applying for the same school, please have different budgets for each class if necessary.

Let us know: Why do you believe environmental education is an important component to incorporate into daily instruction?

Supplementary Opportunity: The Whitfield Education Programs will be providing nature-based lessons and activities for individual grade levels from K- 6th directly aligned with the State's Next Generation Science Standards and designed to get kids outside no matter where they live to help them understand the local ecosystem. These lessons will be available on YouTube through registration.

To register for a virtual video and follow up lessons, please indicate how many classes and grade levels will be participating in these lessons. Please include all contacts and grade levels below so we can reach out to schedule your lesson and virtual follow up.

Sample Budget *For multiple educators applying from a school, have individual budgets for each educator.

Item and Purpose: (including website)	How Many:	Price:
Nature Journals: For collecting data, observations in nature, tracking changes, pattern recognition. https://www.acornnaturalists.com/kid-s-guide-to-exploring-nature.html	23 (\$12.95)	\$297.85
Rain Gauge: For collecting measurement to look for patterns and changes over time and seasons https://www.amazon.com/Lacrosse-Crosse-704-1531-Plastic-Design/dp/B01J1Y7C8I/ref=sr_1_6?dchild=1&keywords=rain+gauge&qid=1598969031&sr=8-6	12 (\$5.85)	\$70.20
		Total: \$368.05

Informational Sheet and Prices for Nature Resources

Prices below come from a profound nature-based resource site for educators called Acorn Naturalists and Amazon. If you find a resource you like below, please include number and price total in your budget on the application. You do not need to include these items on your application, but please list your resources you find, the link to which you found that price and the quantity so if selected, we can purchase items for you if selected.

Prices and Grade Level Suggestions:

(Grade Levels 2- 7) **Nature Journals:** Nature journals are a great outdoor learning tool that can be used in a variety of ways: drawing, observations, data collections over time, weather and precipitation, phenology of plants and animals, poetry and literature, patterns and predictability and other cross cutting concepts. It is a multi-subject tool used to enhance learning and understanding of lesson content as well as observation of the world around us.

Exploring through Nature Journaling: \$12.95 <https://www.acornnaturalists.com/kid-s-guide-to-exploring-nature.html>

(Grade Levels 1+) **The Optic One** is a compass, a signaling mirror, a magnifying glass, binoculars, a monocular and a stereoscope in one! This is a great tool for examining plants or animals up close when looking for patterns, differences, adaptations and changes. \$7.95 each. <https://www.acornnaturalists.com/optic-one.html>

(Grade Levels 3+) **New Mexico Nature Set: Field guides to wildlife, birds, trees and wildflowers.** Getting this all in one set allows for a multitude of uses over several topics from plants and animals to soil and water relationships in nature. These field guides are great for basic knowledge about nature, observations, recordings and findings. Price \$17.95 each <https://www.acornnaturalists.com/new-mexico-nature-set-field-guides-to-wildlife-birds-trees-wildflowers-pocket-naturalistr-guide-set.html>

(Grade Levels 2+) **Binoculars for adults and kids:** \$25.99 each. Great for bird viewing, understanding habitat and adaptations, special features for bird identification, other native animal spotting or nature features, pattern recognition, etc.) https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07Q1GHB5X/?coliid=IZRXSLAK2L8V&colid=LS2OE8CGS4Z7&psc=1&ref=lv_ov_lig_dp_it

(Grade Levels (K+) **Rain Gauge:** \$5.85 each. The rain gauge is great for data collection of measuring rainfall over a period of time (day/month/season) to make predictions, relationships between rainfall and plant growth, etc. You can use this

gauge to measure other liquids and look for changes between them over time. (What sinks or rises?) This can also be used for evaporation lessons. https://www.amazon.com/Lacrosse-Crosse-704-1531-Plastic-Design/dp/B01J1Y7C8I/ref=sr_1_6?dchild=1&keywords=rain+gauge&qid=1598969031&sr=8-6

(Grade Levels K-4) **Seed Starter Kits:** \$13.20 each. Students can watch and learn about seed growth, starting a garden, the importance of growing food. These are great when students are learning how to start their own gardens. https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07L47CX6N/?coliid=I2QCA2RI3X6IEK&colid=LS2OE8CGS4Z7&psc=1&ref=lv_ov_lig_dp_it_im

(Grade Levels 1+) **Hand-held wind gauge and temperature reader:** (\$17.99 each) This is a great tool to help students learn about wind, track data on wind speeds over a period of time, compare and contrast temperature changes over a period of time, make predictions with weather, etc.

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07L47CX6N/?coliid=I2QCA2RI3X6IEK&colid=LS2OE8CGS4Z7&psc=1&ref=lv_ov_lig_dp_it_im

(Grade Levels 2+) **Tracks and Scat Field Guide:** \$12.95 each. This is great to learn about what animals live in what habitats. This is great to learn about different ways to identify an animal based on what they leave behind: scat and tracks. <https://www.acornnaturalists.com/scats-tracks-of-the-desert-southwest-2nd-edition.html>