

Friends of Wild River State Park
Field Trip Transportation Grant

Application For: Field Trip Transportation Grant to Wild River State Park
Application Deadline: June 1 for Fall field trips
February 1 for Spring field trips

Dear Teachers and Group Leaders,

We all know the importance of getting children outdoors. To be able to offer such an opportunity to your students, the Friends of Wild River State Park (FWRSP) have set aside funds to help you enjoy a day of learning and exploration at Wild River State Park.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services states that time spent outdoors:

- promotes physical health
- improves concentration, memory, and behavior
- creates an understanding of our how lifestyle choices impact the environment
- instills creativity and confidence
- positively influences achievement by integrating science, math, social studies, and language arts skills

The Park Naturalist and staff have developed a wide variety of activities for you and your group to choose from while visiting Wild River State Park in any time of the year that can augment your group's focus and curriculum. From watersheds and ecosystems to animal behavior and outdoor skills, trained and knowledgeable staff will help plan your day and accompany you during your visit to the park.

The cost of a field trip is most often what offsets the ability to get children outdoors. Knowing that, FWRSP have set aside funds to split the cost of transportation with a limited number of groups that meet the requirements outlined in the FWRSP Transportation Grant Application. All programs arranged with the park are free and park entrance fees are waived for groups participating in a K-12 school-organized activity.

We would like to help you make the connection of your students to the outdoors in a way that benefits them both physically and mentally while giving back to their natural resources. For more information, please see the FWRSP Transportation Grant application or contact the Wild River State Park Naturalist. Together, we can create an unforgettable experience that will inspire your students to engage in and pass along their love for the outdoors to future generations.

Thank you for your commitment to getting our children outdoors and in sharing and preserving Minnesota's great natural resources.



Friends of Wild River State Park Transportation Grant Application

Thank you for your interest in bringing a group to visit Wild River State Park. To ensure that such experiences are made possible, Friends of Wild River State Park have dedicated a portion of their fundraising efforts to match the cost of transportation for select groups that qualify dependent on the responses provided in the included application. Friends of Wild River State Park is a community organization devoted to preserving and enhancing the experience of Wild River State Park. Through various activities and efforts they seek to sustain the natural beauty and ecology of the park, support interpretive and environmental education programs of the park, augment the work of the park staff through recommendations for activities and improvements and increase local interest and utilization of the park facilities.

Purpose of the Transportation Grant:

It has been made aware that organizations that have regularly brought groups to Wild River State Park to participate in educational and park-enhancing activities are now unable to do so because of funding cuts within their organization. Trends also show that kids, in particular, are becoming less familiar with their natural resources and spend less time outdoors. Finally, volunteers such as school and community groups have assisted in the successful restoration of roughly 450 acres of native prairie within Wild River State Park. To assist school and community organizations in getting kids and new users outdoors and in a way which benefits the preservation or restoration of the resources of Wild River State Park, Friends of Wild River State Park have agreed to match (50/50) the cost of transportation to and from the park with a select number of organizations which meets the requirements outlined in the application.

Transportation Grant Goals and Objectives:

- To bring a minimum of 600 kids/new users to Wild River State Park per year (some may visit twice).
- To provide a minimum of 300 hours (30 minutes per participant) of volunteer efforts to Wild River State Park.
- To provide a hands-on, outdoor, educational experience to participants visiting Wild River State Park.
- To assist in maintaining and/or restoring natural and/or cultural resources of Wild River State Park.

Applicants Agreement:

The group applying for the Transportation Grant agrees to bring a minimum of 40 new users/kids to Wild River State Park and assumes all liability of the transportation vehicle and the participants during the visit. The organization also ensures that such an experience would not be possible without financial assistance from Friends of Wild River State Park, but agrees to cover half of the cost of transportation. The applicant agrees to enhance this educational opportunity with pre and post discussion, arrange all transportation, dedicate at least 30 minutes of the group's visit assisting in volunteer work (e.g. collecting prairie seeds), and allow participants to complete a short survey and bring park information home.

Transportation Grant Budget and Timeline:

Friends of Wild River State Park have allocated \$900 per year to the Transportation Grant. Any amount of this grant can be awarded to a single organization (e.g. school district) no more than twice in a given calendar year. The application must be submitted at least one month prior to the group visiting Wild River State Park. Funding of this grant is guaranteed on an annual basis and as determined by Friends of Wild River State Park.

Evaluation of the Transportation Grant:

An annual evaluation of the effectiveness of the Transportation Grant will determine the continuation of funding. This will be based on participant survey responses and resource benefit evaluations.

Friends of Wild River State Park (FWRSP) Transportation Grant Application

Organization of Applicant	
Organization Address to Receive Funds	
Applicant Name and Email	
Applicant Position/Grade	Date Requested:
Exact Amount of Money Requesting	
Referred by	

- Has this organization arranged a visit to Wild River State Park before?** Yes No
Has this specific group of participants visited Wild River State Park as a whole before? Yes No
Has this organization been the recipient of the FWRSP Transportation Grant before? Yes No
Might this trip take place without the financial assistance of FWRSP? Yes No
Would participants be willing to take a short survey as part of receiving the grant? Yes No
Would participants be allowed to take a park brochure home if receiving the grant? Yes No

This grant is intended to connect target groups with the outdoors and requires a minimum of 40 participants to qualify.

- How many participants will be attending this trip (including chaperones)?** Ages 18 /under Over 18
How many busses will be needed to transport this number of participants? Busses at total cost per bus
Will the bus be properly insured with all liability through the organization? Yes No

This grant is limited and in high demand. Funding will only be granted in situations where a trip to Wild River State park would not happen without such financial assistance.

Please indicate your reason for needing financial assistance.

This grant is focused on bringing new users to Wild River State Park - those who would not otherwise have the opportunity of such an outdoor experience.

Please indicate why such an organized experience is appropriate for your group.

