

# **OUTDOOR EDUCATION FUNDING WINDOW**

## **ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT OUTDOOR EDUCATION Proposal's – Eligibility CRITERIA**

July 1, 2014

*OUTDOOR EDUCATION (OE) grants are a subset of the larger Environmental Education program. OE refers to projects and activities that provide a meaningful outdoor educational experience by developing awareness, appreciation and stewardship of Arizona's wildlife and wildlife habitats that benefits Arizona public schools and students.*

The intent of **OE** grants is to fund projects that provide a meaningful outdoor, wildlife-focused educational experience to public school students while giving the greatest return for the Heritage funds invested consistent with the eligibility criteria listed below. Schools and districts are encouraged to submit proposals to cover the costs associated with field trips to an area important to local wildlife.

For **2015** there is **\$16,000** available to support **OE grant proposals**. Grant applicants can request from **\$500 to \$2,500** within this sub-category. Proposals can only be used to cover **transportation** associated costs, **substitute teacher** costs incurred during the field trip activity; and any **resource** costs necessary to successfully carryout the activities. These resources might include binoculars, field guides, clipboards, dataloggers, etc. Funds cannot be used for entrance fees, food, drink, or other related costs. **A field trip itinerary** with proposed field-trip date/times **MUST also be included** with the grant proposal and must detail the activities and the number of student participants.

Grant proposals that do not meet **one or more** of the **Eligibility CRITERIA** below **will be rejected**:

### **CRITERIA-1: Outdoor, Nature-Based Field Experience**

Funds can be used to get students into nature to explore habitats and wildlife first hand, at one or more outdoor settings. Preference will be given to activities that:

- a. are original, teacher creations as opposed to established programs
- b. are inquiry-based
- c. are hands-on
- d. are standards-based
- e. identify any pre and post-activities that describe how the outdoor learning experience continues beyond the individual field trip
- f. have a wildlife, wildlife habitat or outdoor recreation focus (i.e.; archery, fishing, wildlife identification, etc.)

### **CRITERIA-2: Youth Day at the Outdoor Expo**

Funds can be used to bring students to the **Department's 2015 Outdoor Expo Youth Day** which will take place on **Friday, March 27, 2015** at the Ben Avery Facility in north Phoenix. This annual event provides numerous educational opportunities that allow students to learn about wildlife and outdoor recreation. These include hands-on activities such as archery, fishing, and wilderness survival as well as numerous demonstrations and presentations. Information about the previous year's Youth Day can be found at <http://www.azgfd.gov/youthday>. Successful applicants are expected to sign-up when registration becomes available in December or January.

**CRITERIA-3: Outdoor Programs at the Hirsch Conservation Education Area**

Funds can be used to participate in a hands-on outdoor program at the Hirsch Conservation Education Area located at the Ben Avery Facility in north Phoenix. Applicants must identify the desired program(s) and at least three potential dates. They must choose one or more of the following programs:

- a. Digital photography of wildlife and wildlife habitats
- b. Geocaching of Arizona's Wildlife Areas
- c. Sport fishing
- d. Tracking wildlife
- e. Watchable wildlife

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