



Go Outside (GO) Grants – Frequently Asked Questions

GO Grant guidelines are available here: <https://gooutside.nc.gov/go-grants/apply/>

What is the N.C. Youth Outdoor Engagement Commission’s Go Outside (GO) Grant?

The N.C. Youth Outdoor Engagement Commission provides outdoor learning opportunities for youth across the state of North Carolina. This state-wide grant program directly supports the construction of outdoor learning facilities and experiential learning trips and programs.

What organizations are eligible to apply for a GO Grant?

Eligible organizations must qualify as either a North Carolina K-12 school, or nonprofit organization as follows:

A. North Carolina K-12 School:

A public, private, or charter school based in North Carolina. A registered homeschool association or children’s home (both must have 501(c)(3) nonprofit status) based in North Carolina.

B. Nonprofit Organization

A nonprofit organization with tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Organizations must have the ability to adopt the Commission’s branding as part of their grant.

Who can fill out the application?

Any member of a school’s faculty or administrative staff may apply for a GO Grant. Parent Teacher Associations, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, and outdoor activity centers may apply on behalf of a school or in partnership with a school, but the school’s administrative and financial staff must sign off on the application.

What are the funding guidelines for GO Grants?

Grant awards are dependent upon the type of GO Grant that is being applied for:

A. Standard On-Campus Structures:

Up to \$15,000 is available for the construction of standard outdoor learning facilities, to include outdoor classrooms, greenhouses, pollinator gardens, and vegetable gardens.

B. Advanced On-Campus Structures:

Up to \$20,000 is available for the construction of outdoor on-site agricultural, aquatic, archery, or nature-trail facilities, to include animal barns, mini-farms, hydro/aquaponic greenhouses, fishing docks, canoe/kayak docks, archery ranges, and educational hiking trails.

C. Field Trips:

Up to \$3,000 for single-day field trips or up to \$5,000 for overnight field trips. An extra \$1,000 is available per additional day up to the \$5,000 cap. Field trips must include an outdoor learning component/activity and may include visits to

National/State Parks, city/county parks, outdoor recreation areas, outdoor activity/education centers, and historical sites.

D. Visiting Programs:

Up to \$2,500 for outdoor on-campus programs. Visiting programs must include an outdoor learning component/activity and may include visits from aquarium/zoos, museums, gardening organizations, and other STEM organizations.

When is the grant application submission period?

There is no application deadline, GO Grant applications are accepted on a rolling basis and awarded throughout the year, as funds allow.

Where do I go to apply?

GO Grant applications for Standard On-Campus Structures, Advanced On-Campus Structures, Field Trips and Visiting programs can be found [HERE](#). Applications are to be submitted to GoOutside@nc.gov, faxed, or mailed in (the fax number and mailing address can be found on the application). Nonprofit organizations must additionally complete and submit the Nonprofit Supplement form. If the applicant is both a charter/private school and has nonprofit status, the Nonprofit Application Supplement does not need to be completed

Can I reapply for a GO Grant?

Applicants seeking funding for field trips or visiting programs are eligible to receive one GO Grant per class/grade each school year. For example: multiple applications (inside a school year) for a single group of students will be rejected but multiple applications (inside a school year) for different classes/grades will be considered.

Applicants who have previously received funding for structures and are seeking further funding for structures may reapply, however, during the review process consideration is given to funding geographically diverse projects, so repeat applications may be rejected or held for future review.

When will I find out the status of my grant?

The grant review process may take up to 6 weeks. Typically grant recipients will be notified of the status of their application within 6 weeks of submission. Exceptions may occur for grant applications that require the submission of additional documentation or further review.

How soon should I apply to ensure I receive funding in time? When are grant funds made available?

To receive funding in time, applications should be submitted at least 6 weeks from the date of your field trip/program or construction start date.

Grant awards will be sent directly to the recipient school system or nonprofit organization (electronically or by check) within 45 days of the proposed construction timeline or field trip/visiting program.

If you are required to make deposits ahead of your field trip/visiting program dates, please explain this in your application and provide a timeline. You can request a letter of proof of funds from our finance staff by emailing GoOutside@nc.gov

Our trip date is approaching and our funds haven't arrived.

Please be advised that we will work with the timeline that has been given in your application will begin the fund disbursement process within 45 days of the proposed construction timeline or field trip/visiting program.

If you need to make a change to your dates, you must first complete and submit a GO Grant Amendment Request form, found [HERE](#), and email it to GoOutside@nc.gov. Please note that an amendment request must be approved by the Commission before grant awards can be spent. You can request a letter of proof of funds from our finance staff by emailing GoOutside@nc.gov

Please be advised that our finance staff works alongside other state agencies to disburse funds and that we have limited control over this process.

What kind of documentation am I required to submit for expense reporting?

Within 30 days of the completion of your structure or field trip/visiting program you are required to submit proof of payment and photographs. You can view grant reporting information [HERE](#). The following documentation is required:

A. Proof of Payment

For each purchase we require two forms of proof of payment, to include a copy of a check stub and/or account transaction summary AND a receipt, invoice, or purchase order.

B. Photographs

Recipients must submit photographs of their structure or field trip/visiting program that we may use on our website, social media, and in our print and other materials.

What if our field trip/visiting program date changes?

If you need to make a change to your dates, you must first complete and submit a GO Grant Amendment Request form, found [HERE](#), and email it to GoOutside@nc.gov. Please note that an amendment request must be approved by the Commission before grant awards can be spent.

What if I'm awarded a GO Grant but my structure purchase list or field trip location changes?

Grant awards must fund the purchases and costs listed in an approved application. If you need to make a change to your structure/field trip/visiting program, you must first complete and submit a GO Grant Amendment Request form, found [HERE](#), and email it to GoOutside@nc.gov. Please note that an amendment request must be approved by the Commission before grant awards can be spent.

What if the cost of my items changed but my purchase list has not?

Grant awards must fund the purchases and costs as described in an approved application. If you need to make a change to your structure/field trip/visiting program, or need to reallocate funds from one purchase to another, you must first complete and submit a GO Grant Amendment Request form, found [HERE](#), and email it to GoOutside@nc.gov. Please note that an amendment request must be approved by the Commission before grant awards can be spent.

What if we were awarded a GO Grant but the original applicant has left the school/organization?

If you wish to use the grant for its intended purpose, you must first complete and submit a GO Grant Amendment Request form designating a new lead contact. The Amendment Request form can be downloaded [HERE](#), then emailed to GoOutside@nc.gov. Please note that an amendment request must be approved by the Commission before grant awards can be spent.

What if there are funds leftover?

Leftover grant funds must be returned to the Commission within 30 days of grant completion. Checks can be mailed to:

N.C. Youth Outdoor Engagement Commission
1715 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1715