



GRANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALABAMA OUTDOOR CLASSROOM SCHOOLS

For more details including specific deadlines, visit the websites listed below along with the Alabama Wildlife Federation's website at www.alabamawildlife.org.



North American Association for Environmental Education

The NAAEE website has a great list of environmental education grants that are available each year.

<http://eelink.net/pages/Grants+-+EE+Specific+Resources>

School Grants

Search for grants in your region of the US...

<http://www.k12grants.org/Grants/south.htm>

Cyber Sierra's Conservation Grants Center

This website has a list of grants for environmental education grants.

<http://www.conservationgrants.com/education.htm>

National Gardening Association Themed Grants*

(Deadlines for each Grant Opportunity Vary)

The National Gardening Association (NGA) works with sponsoring companies and organizations to provide in-kind grants to projects that actively engage kids in the garden and improve the quality of life for their communities. Each grant consists of a wide assortment of quality tools, seeds, garden products, and educational materials. There are several different grant opportunities available thru NGA:

- Hooked on Hydroponics Awards
- Youth Garden Grants (*more details below*)
- Healthy Sprouts Awards
- Mantis Awards

<http://www.kidsgardening.com/grants.asp>

National Weather Association Grants

(Applications accepted from January thru May)

The National Weather Association provides \$500 grants for teachers in grades K-12 to improved the education of their students in meteorology. The teachers selected will be able to use the funds to take an accredited course in atmospheric sciences, attend a relevant workshop or conference, or purchase scientific materials or equipment for the classroom.

<http://www.nwas.org/grants/solhirsch.php>

Alabama Ag in the Classroom*

(Deadlines in January and October)

The Alabama Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation makes grants available for projects that integrate agriculture into curriculum areas during the school year. Alabama public or private schools as well as ACES Agents or Alabama Soil & Water District Coordinators may apply for grants from \$25 to \$500.

<http://www.alabamaitc.org/grants.html>

Toyota TAPESTRY Grants for Science Projects*

(Deadline in February)

Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. and the National Science Teachers Association provide Toyota TAPESTRY Grants for Science Teachers up to \$10,000 each and mini-grants of up to \$2,500. The categories are Physical Science, Environmental Education, and Integrating Literacy and Science.

<http://www.nsta.org/pd/tapestry/guidelines.htm>

Legacy's Earth Month Grants*

(Deadline in February)

The Earth Month Sponsorship program is designed to provide funding for the education components of Earth Month or Earth Day programs, celebrated during April. The Earth Month Sponsorships are available up to \$300 or up to \$500 if matching funds are available.

<http://www.legacyved.org/index.php/grants-and-scholarships/earth-month-sponsorships>

**Note: Grant Programs with an asterisk beside their name means that one or more of our Alabama Outdoor Classroom Schools have received this grant in the past.*

(Alabama Outdoor Classroom Grant Opportunities: page 1 of 4)

Lowe's Toolbox for Education*

(Deadlines in February and October)

Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant program provides funding for projects that have a permanent impact such as facility enhancement (both indoor and outdoor) as well as landscaping/clean up type projects. Projects that encourage parent involvement and build stronger community spirit will be favored. Grants between \$2,000-5,000 will be awarded.

<http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/>

American Honda Foundation Grants

(Deadlines in February, May, August, and November)

The American Honda Foundation makes grants available for projects that reflect the basic tenets, beliefs and philosophies of Honda companies, including imaginative, creative, youthful, forward-thinking, scientific, humanistic and innovative. We support youth education with a specific focus on the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects in addition to the environment. The average grant range is \$20,000 to \$60,000.

<http://corporate.honda.com/america/philanthropy.aspx?id=ahf>

Toshiba America Foundation Grants

(6-12 grade schools: Deadlines in February or August)

(K-5 grade schools: Deadline in October)

The Toshiba America Foundation encourages teacher-led, K-12 classroom-based programs, projects, and activities that have the potential to improve classroom experiences in science, mathematics, and technology. Two grant categories: up to \$5,000 and over \$5,000.

<http://www.toshiba.com/taf/>

Alabama Wildlife Federation Outdoor Classroom Grant Program*

(Deadline in March 2012 – skipping 2011 grant cycle)

The purpose of the Alabama Wildlife Federation's (AWF) Outdoor Classroom (OC) Grant Program is to provide financial assistance and faculty support to schools who wish to create sustainable wildlife habitats and effective outdoor classroom sites on their school grounds for hands-on learning opportunities. The AWF OC Grants are available for schools enrolled in the Alabama Outdoor Classroom Program. Grant amounts vary up to \$1,000.

<http://www.alabamawildlife.org/pages/?pageID=32>

Bonnie Plants Announces 3rd Grade Cabbage Program*

(Deadline in March)

The 3rd Grade Cabbage Program is FREE to all 3rd graders. In spring, students will receive plants that produce "oversized" cabbages — they can reach more than forty pounds and bigger! Teachers choose a class winner and submit a nomination form to Bonnie Plant Farm. One lucky third grader in each state will win a \$1000 scholarship. Once you enroll the class in the program, Bonnie Plant Farm will contact you and deliver the number of plants you request.

<http://www.bonnieplants.com/3rdGradeCabbageProgram/tabid/58/Default.aspx>

Alabama Power Foundation Grant Program

(Deadlines in March, June, September, and December)

The Alabama Power Foundation considers requests up to \$50,000 that most closely match its overall mission: to improve the quality of life of Alabamians and to strengthen the communities in which they live. The Foundation grant applications must meet several guidelines including projects that address education, civic and community life, arts and culture, environment, and health services.

<http://www.alabamapower.com/foundation/grantsandinitiatives.asp>

Captain Planet Foundation

(Deadlines in March, June, September, and December)

The mission of the Captain Planet Foundation is to fund and support hands-on environmental projects for children and youths. Through environmental education, we believe that children can achieve a better understanding and appreciation for the world in which they live. Grants available for environmental education range between \$250 - \$2,500.

<http://www.captainplanetfdn.org/grants.html>

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HATS STEDTRAIN Science & Technology Seed Grants*

(Deadline in April)

The Huntsville Association of Technical Societies (HATS) and its Science and Technology Education and Training (STEDTRAIN) Committee awards education Seed Grants (a.k.a. Startup Grants) from \$200 to \$1,000 for innovative projects that help promote student interest in scientific and technical subjects. Grants are available for K-12 Alabama schools in **Jackson, Madison, Marshall, Morgan, and Limestone Counties**.

<http://www.hats.org/STEDTRAIN/stedtr.shtml>

Legacy's Mini-Grants & Competitive Grants*

(Deadline in April)

Legacy provides grants annually to assist with helping to create environmentally responsible citizens through education. Any Alabama organization (including schools) planning a community based environmental program is encouraged to apply. Mini-grants are available up to \$2,500 and Competitive grants are available up to \$10,000.

<http://www.legacyenvd.org/index.php/grants-and-scholarships/sub-menu-1> or [/sub-menu-2](http://www.legacyenvd.org/index.php/grants-and-scholarships/sub-menu-2)

GREENWORKS! Grants*

(Deadline in September)

Grant opportunity from GreenWorks! for Project Learning Tree (PLT) trained educators to implement community action and service-learning projects from \$250 to \$5000. GreenWorks! projects should address an environmental issue and involve students from pre-school to high school in hands-on community action.

http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/21_22_21.html

Alabama RC&D Council Grants*

(Deadlines vary beginning in September of each year)

"RC&D" is short for Resource Conservation and Development, a unique process that helps people protect and develop their economic, natural, and social resources in ways that improve their area's economy, environment, and quality of life. There are 9 RC&D Councils across Alabama, and many provide funding for conservation education projects such as Outdoor Classroom development at area schools. The grant amounts vary widely from \$250 to \$2,500 or more. Contact your local RC&D Council to see if they are currently accepting grant requests.

<http://www.alabamawildlife.org/uploadedFiles/RC&D%20Council%20Areas%20-%20Grants%281%29.pdf>

Birmingham Audubon Society's Mini-Grants*

(Deadline in September/October)

The Birmingham Audubon Society (BAS) offers mini-grants up to \$250-300 to support conservation education in Jefferson and Shelby counties. Monies may be used for outdoor field trips or to create outdoor classrooms, bird feeding stations and other types of outdoor habitats. For additional info contact BAS at (205) 714-8227.

<http://www.birminghamaudubon.org/education/forteachers/minigrantsprog>

Wild Ones: Seeds for Education, Grants for School Gardens and Community Nature Areas

(Deadline in October)

The Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Grant Program gives small monetary grants for the purchase of native plants and seeds to establish outdoor learning centers. The grant recipients are those which most successfully reflect the Wild Ones mission to educate and share information about the benefits of using native plants in our landscape and to promote biodiversity and environmentally sound environmental practices.

<http://www.for-wild.org/seedmony.html>

Youth Garden Grants*

(Deadline in November)

The National Gardening Association (NGA) and The Home Depot provide Youth Garden Grants for schools, youth groups, and community centers throughout the US. In evaluating grant applications, priority will be given to programs that emphasize one or more of these elements: educational focus or curricular/program integration; nutrition or plant-to-food connections; environmental awareness/education; entrepreneurship; social aspects of gardening such as leadership development, team building, community support, or service-learning. Grantees will receive \$500-1,000 gift cards to The Home Depot and educational materials from NGA.

<http://www.kidsgardening.com/YGG.asp>

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Siemens Foundation's "We Can Change the World Grant"

Teachers and their students work collaboratively to identify environmental concerns right in their own classrooms or schools, and come up with solutions that might change the world. Prizes range between \$2,000-\$5,000, and are available for K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12 grade classes.

<http://www.wecanchange.com/>

The Dekko Foundation*

(Contact Dekko for Grant Deadlines)

The Dekko Foundation will consider grant proposals from public and private schools from **Limestone County in Alabama**. The Foundation focuses its grants on programs that prepare students for life and work; create an awareness of a child's natural curiosity; and utilize curriculum that is cooperative, interdisciplinary, and integrated with technology.

Send email to: dekko@dekkofoundation.org

Do Something STUDENT Grants

(Grants awarded weekly)

"Do Something" youth grants are available for students in the U.S. who have a great idea for a community action project. Grants of \$500 are given out weekly.

<http://www.dosomething.org/grants>

America the Beautiful Fund's Operation Green Plant

America the Beautiful Fund is offering grants of FREE SEEDS (shipping and handling costs apply) for community and school planting projects. Available while supplies last.

http://www.america-the-beautiful.org/free_seeds/index.php

Alabama Urban Forestry Association Tree Giveaway Program*

(Deadlines vary for different cities and counties)

The Alabama Urban Forestry Association often partners with local businesses to provide free tree seedlings to plant around Jefferson County and the surrounding area. For more information for this year's program, visit their website.

<http://www.aufa.com/id72.html> or http://www.alagasco.com/fw/main/Plant_A_Tree-627.html

Local Fundraising Opportunities & Support

- School System "Partners-in-Education" Businesses
- Local County Commissioners
- Local Garden Centers
- Plant Rescue Groups
- Local Soil & Water Conservation Offices
- Parent-Teacher Associations or Organizations
- Student-Lead Fundraiser
- Local Churches
- County Alabama Cooperative Extension System Agents
- Master Gardeners

GRANT WRITING TIPS: TOP TEN LIST

1. **Know your audience** – Make sure your project's goals match the goals of the grant you are applying for.
2. **Follow the guidelines listed** – Read and reread the guidelines provided, and follow them to the letter.
3. **Proof your application** – Have someone who is not involved in your project review your proposal to make sure that it makes sense and answers the questions appropriately.
4. **Honor deadlines** – Try to get your proposal completed and turned in ahead of the deadline to avoid any last minute complications.
5. **Keep it clear and concise** – Only answer the questions asked, and do not include any additional information or attachments if the grant application does not request it.
6. **Submit your reports** – Be sure to follow the guidelines and submit any and all follow-up reports on time.
7. **Passion must be evident** – If possible, be sure to convey how important your project is to your students, the school, and the community as a whole.
8. **Do not use a shotgun approach** – Stay focused and do not include any other projects in your proposal. Also, be sure to demonstrate how your specific project meets their grant program's goals.
9. **It all starts with a good idea** – Before applying for grants, put your thoughts and ideas on paper using the Alabama Outdoor Classroom Program's Master Plan worksheet and Individual Project Plan worksheets.
10. **Be correct** – Do the necessary research before filling out any grant applications to ensure that you have a true picture of the scope and details of your project.