

# 2024-25 GOLD Grant Application for Georgia Outdoor Learning Demonstration Projects

This form may be used to apply for a GOLD Grant for outdoor learning from the Georgia Department of Education, administered by the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia, Inc.

## ***Deadline***

The deadline for grant applications is **11:59 pm on Friday, September 20, 2024**.

## ***Applicant Eligibility***

Eligible applicants include schools, school districts, non-profit tax-exempt organizations with 501c3 status, or public agencies. All grant applications must primarily benefit Georgia public school students.

## ***Grant Amounts***

Grants may be as small as \$500 or as large as \$5000. It is anticipated that at least 18 grants will be awarded in this round.

## ***Grant Purposes***

Grant funds may be used for professional learning, outdoor improvements or facilities, student supplies, or field trips. All grant-funded activities must involve or further outdoor learning for students. GOLD Grants are funded by the state legislature and the intent for this program is explained in the [Final Report of the bipartisan Senate Study Committee on Outdoor Learning](#).

## ***Grant Selection Criteria***

Applications will be reviewed and scored based on merit, according to your responses on this form. Additional considerations will include need (as determined by responses to questions about Title 1 and other federal statuses) and geographic distribution (as determined by responses to questions about location and State Board of Education districts). Previous grantees must wait one school year before reapplying.

## ***Grant Awards Timeframe***

It is anticipated that grant awards will be approved by the Georgia Board of Education at the November 2024 meeting and that the Grant Award Notification (GAN) will be made available to grantees in November 2024. Projects must be completed by May 31, 2025. Progress and Final Reports will be required.

## ***Request for Applications (RFA)***

To read the full RFA, please click [this link](#). Webinars for prospective applicants will be held on August 12 and September 9 at 4:00 and recordings will be available [here](#). To see a preview of this application before completing it, click [here](#).

\* Indicates required question

---

1. Email \*

---

GOLD Grants are funded by the Georgia legislature; managed by the Georgia Department of Education, and administered by the Environmental Education Alliance, Inc.



2. **Name of Applying Organization** (must be a School, School District, Non-Profit Organization, or Public Agency that serves public school students in Georgia) \*

---

3. **Street Address of Applying Organization including County and Zip Code** \*

---

**4. Applicant Type \***

*Mark only one oval.*

- Public School
- School District or Multiple Schools
- Non-profit Organization with IRS 501c3 status including school foundations
- Independent non-profit school partnering with a public school
- Public Agency including RESA
- University

**5. If applicant is a non-profit organization, upload your IRS 501c3 tax-exempt determination letter here**

Files submitted:

**6. If applicant is not a public school, with what public school(s) will your organization partner?**

---

**7. Name of Contact Person for this Application \***

---

**8. Contact Person's Work Email Address \***

---

**9. Contact Person's Personal Email Address (required because grant reports will be due after the end of the school year) \***

---

10. **Contact Person's Cell Phone** (required because grant reports will be due after the end of the school year) \*

---

11. **Name of School Principal (or CEO of Non-Profit, or Head of Public Agency applying for this Grant )** \*

---

12. **Email Address of Principal** (or head of Non-Profit or Public Agency Applicant) \*

---

13. **Phone Number of Principal** (or head of Non-Profit Organization or Public Agency) \*

---

14. **Name of School District's Federal Grants Specialist** (Non-school applicants must also provide this information for the nearest county school district) \*

---

15. **Email Address School District's Federal Grants Specialist** (Non-school applicants must also provide this information for the nearest county school district) \*

---

16. **Phone Number of School District's Federal Grants Specialist** (Non-school applicants must also provide this information for the nearest county school district) \*

---

17. **Signature Form** Please copy and retitle [this form](#) with applicant organization's name, have it signed (digitally or in ink) by the contact person and the school principal or CEO / head of applicant's agency or organization. Upload the signed document here.

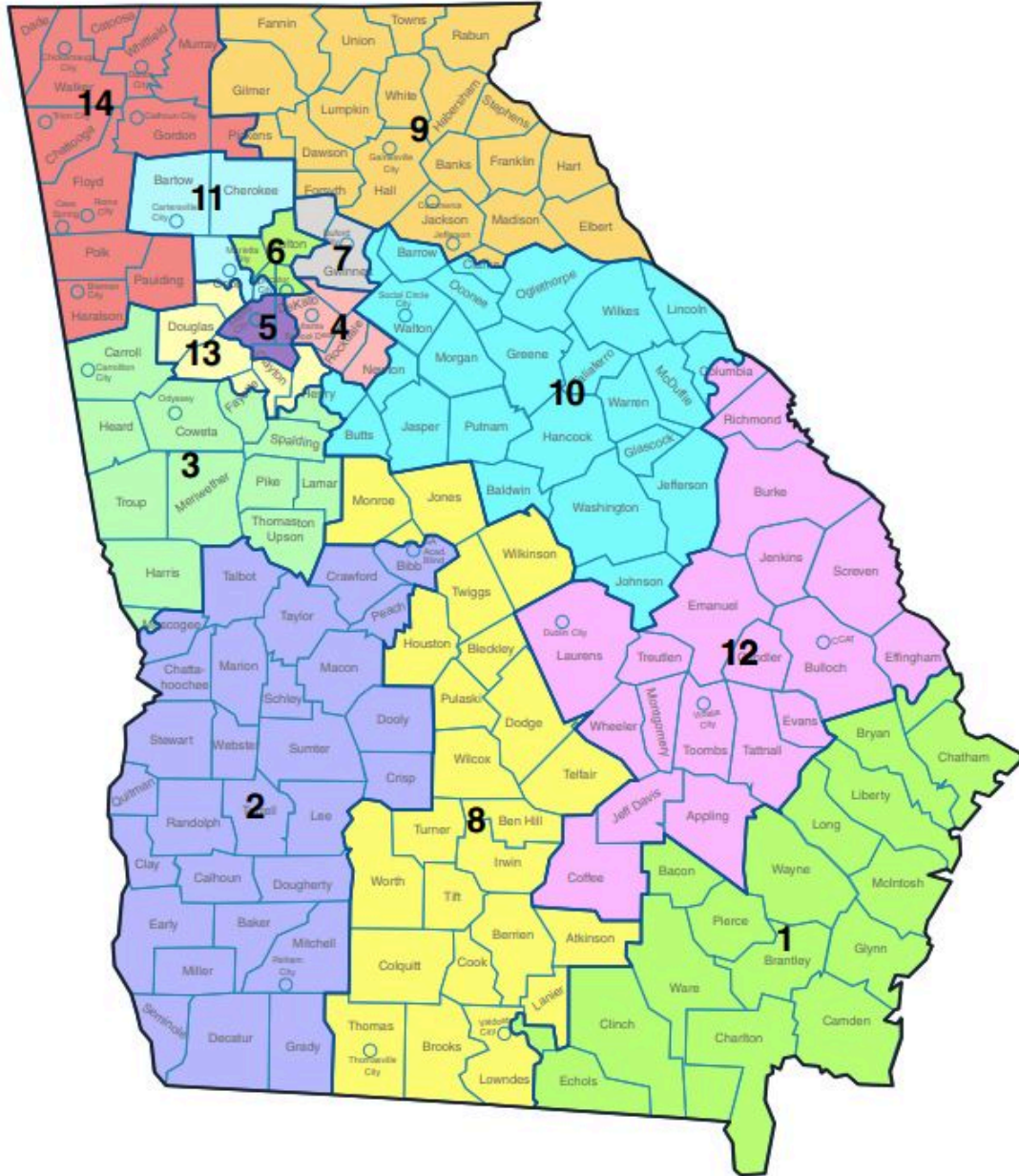
**OR** share a link to the signed google document instead, by responding to the next question.

Files submitted:

18. **Signature Form** - If signed form was not uploaded in response to the previous question, you may provide a link to the signed google document here. Change the access settings (by clicking Share button) to: "Anyone with the Link may View." \*
-

**GA BOE District Map** (To enlarge the map, click [here](#) or [here](#)).

In which Georgia Board of Education District will the project take place? Please locate the project and find the district number with the map. Use this information to answer the question.



19. **GaBOE District # in which Project will be Located \***

\_\_\_\_\_

20. **Setting of Project Location \***

Mark only one oval.

- Urban
- Suburban
- Rural

21. **Title 1 Status \***

List all schools that will participate in the proposed project. Then provide an I.D. number from the far left column of [this chart](#), for any of those schools that are listed as Title 1 institutions. If not listed as Title 1, respond "N/A" next to the school name.

---

22. **Free and Reduced Price Lunch Eligibility**

According to [this data](#), what percentage of students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch at your school (or each school with which you are partnering)? Please click the link; select the most recent school year from the drop-down menu; select the appropriate school district; and report the percentage listed for the specific school.

---

23. **GA House District of Project Location \***

Go to [this link](#) and enter a project address in the box on the website (typically, the school or organization address). Provide the **district number** that shows for the "State Lower Chamber" (meaning the Georgia House of Representatives)

---

24. **GA Senate District of Project Location** \*

Click on [this link](#) and enter the project location address in the box on the website (typically, the school or organization address). Provide the **district number** it lists for the "State Upper Chamber" (meaning the Georgia Senate)

---

25. **Additional Consideration: CSI, TSI, ATSI, or Tier IV School** \*

Is the applicant (or this partnering public school) on the list of [CSI Schools](#), [TSI Schools](#), [ATSI Schools](#), or [Tier IV Schools](#)? [More information](#) on identification criteria and status. If yes, please provide the status type and school ID number, or respond N/A

---

---

---

---

---

26. **Previous GOLD Grants** \*

Has the applicant previously received a GOLD Grant? If yes, the applicant must wait one school year before reapplying. List the school year of the previous grant or respond "N/A"

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes, the applicant was awarded a GOLD grant during first round: 2022-23
- Yes, the applicant was awarded a GOLD grant during second round: 2023-24
- No, the applicant has not previously been awarded a GOLD Grant



27. **EE Landscape Analysis Survey**

Has someone at your school, organization, or agency already completed the Georgia Environmental Education Landscape Survey? (Here is the survey [link for schools](#). And here is the survey [link for non-formal environmental education providers](#)) Completing the survey is optional, but every Georgia teacher and administrator is invited to share their ideas and perceptions about outdoor learning - regardless of previous experience. The survey will contribute to understanding about the extent to which outdoor learning is currently taking place in Georgia but has *no bearing on whether your proposal will be funded*. Please consider completing the survey now. No response is required.

---

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

The following questions relate to the outdoor learning project you propose.

**Four categories of expenses are eligible for this grant: a) professional learning, b) schoolyard improvements, c) student supplies, and d) field trips. It is not necessary for a project to include all four types of expenses.**

**Important Note:** the term "outdoor classroom" is not often used any more because it conjures up an image of children sitting in a field on rows of benches in front of a lectern or whiteboard. Effective outdoor learning can take many forms such as engaging students in investigations, project-based learning, community science and data collection, explorations, observation of real-world phenomena, and making connections related to any subject area, interdisciplinary studies, or crosscutting concepts. Feel free to consider the Outdoor Learning Idea Book for inspiration.

28. **Overview: Summarize the purpose, process, and outcomes** of your proposed project in three sentences or less. (Example: X High School plans to accomplish Y by doing Z) \*

---

---

---

---

---

29.

**a) Professional Learning**

Please tell about professional learning (**if any**) that will be funded by the proposed grant. *Example: "Project WET Training will be provided for (number of) teachers"*

---

---

---

---

---

30. **b) Schoolyard Improvements**

Please describe outdoor learning spaces, schoolyard improvements, infrastructure or amenities that will be funded by the proposed grant (**if any**); tell whether they are already approved by the principal and district facilities management staff; and explain how they will be maintained. *Example: "a schoolyard forest (or portable chicken coop, weather station, pollinator habitat, vegetable garden, tumbling composter, hose bib, etc.) will be installed on school grounds by X and maintained by Y, so students can explore Z." Note that improvements are typically materials or fixtures that are installed, built or located in an outdoor learning space and **not** typically supplies used by students.*

---

---

---

---

---

31. **c) Student Supplies for Outdoor Learning**

Please tell about student supplies or equipment (**if any**) that will be funded by the proposed grant, and how these supplies will be used for outdoor learning. *Example: "the grant will be used to purchase a water quality test kit and dissolved oxygen probes so that an entire class of 30 can be actively engaged in small groups of 3, collecting and analyzing data to determine if there is a problem with water quality of the creek on school grounds." Note that supplies are typically materials that are in the hands of students during outdoor learning.*

---

---

---

---

---

32. **d) Field Trips**

Please tell about field trips to nature centers or natural areas, or in-school programs (**if any**) that will be funded by the proposed grant. *Example: "XYZ Nature Center will engage one class of 25 third graders in three field trips, where they will 1) participate in an introduced species scavenger hunt, 2) remove introduced species and plant native seedlings in the same area; and 3) return to the project site and analyze changes since the first visit."*

---

---

---

---

---

33. **Scale:** How many children will DIRECTLY participate in and benefit from the proposed project this school year? Please indicate the number of students to be directly engaged with a learning activity related to the proposed project - not merely students who will walk past or tangentially encounter the project. \*

---

---

---

---

---

34. **Student Grade Level or Course:** Describe the children who will benefit from the proposed project, including their grade level(s), subject area(s), or course name(s). \*

---

---

---

---

---

35. **Impact:** "Scale" is a measure of how many students the proposed project will reach, and "Impact" is a measure of the depth of learning and its lasting significance. How will the proposed project make an impact on student attitudes, behaviors, academic success, or self-efficacy? *Examples: Will students be engaged on a long-term, ongoing basis rather than an individual lesson? In what ways will the proposed project help students make real-world connections to the curriculum? How will the project increase student confidence in their ability to solve authentic problems? Will the project expose students to career paths?* \*

---

---

---

---

---

36. **Learning Goals:** What will students learn - (or what will teachers gain, if professional learning is proposed) - as a result of grant funding? Which [Georgia Standards of Excellence](#) are relevant? Please identify the grade level or course, subject, and standard. \*

---

---

---

---

---

37. **Educator Experience and Interest:** What experience do you have engaging students in outdoor learning, and how will that experience contribute to the success of the proposed project? *For example: Have you planted a garden with students in the past? Completed the [ATEEG nationally-accredited certification](#) in environmental education or taken a workshop such as Project Wet, Project Wild or Project Learning Tree? Participated in a community science project such as collecting data on insects or birds in the schoolyard? Taken students outside to conduct investigations or connect with nature? How does your experience prepare you to engage students outside?* \*

Experience (or lack thereof) will not affect consideration of the proposed project. Everyone has to start somewhere! In the absence of experience, please describe your interest in teaching students outdoors.

---


---

---

---

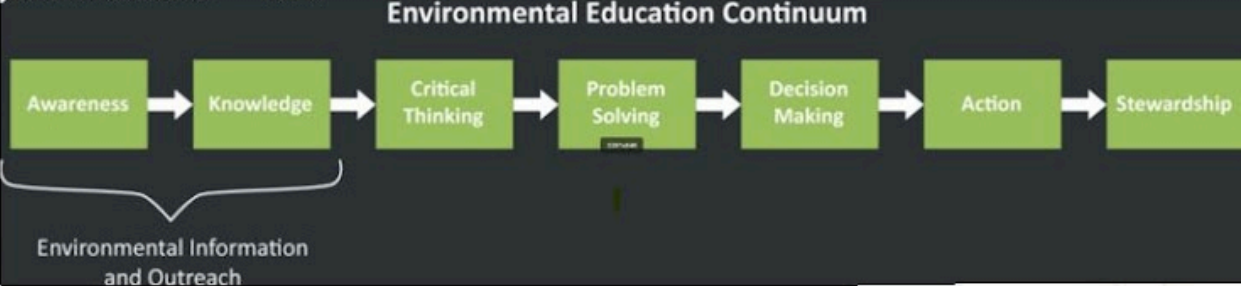
---

- 38. **EE Continuum:** Environmental education and outdoor learning can take many forms, from nature experiences to gaining knowledge about the environment, investigating phenomena, solving problems, making informed decisions, to designing and carrying out projects that solve real-world problems. Think about the project you are proposing and the specific outdoor learning activities in which students will be engaged. Where, on the continuum, do those activities fall? (Note: any answer can be acceptable. An accurate assessment of the proposed project is key to receiving full points for this response.)

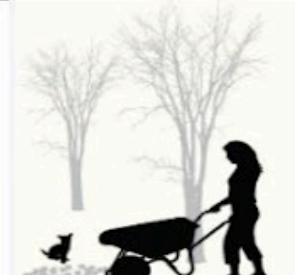


Environmental education is anchored by experiences that connect people with nature. It progresses from enjoyment and a sense of wonder to awareness, knowledge, problem-solving and decision-making, resulting in people who are prepared, motivated and hopeful enough to protect earth.

**Environmental Education Continuum**



Feeling empowered to make a difference is not simply a matter of becoming environmentally literate. It also requires experience gathering evidence, identifying bite-sized problems, researching solutions, designing projects and carrying them out.



---



---



---



---



---

39. **Community Partners and Plans:** What relationships have you cultivated in the community and who has agreed to help you with this project (if anyone)? What else do you need for success? Will additional phases or other funding be necessary to complete the proposed work or project? \*

---

---

---

---

---

40. **Building on Existing Assets and Resources:** What assets does your school or organization already have, that will contribute to the success of the proposed project? *Examples: Have you or other teachers and staff been trained in outdoor learning? Has your school worked out a way to rearrange the schedule occasionally to allow longer sessions outdoors? Are there natural areas in the schoolyard where students can conduct investigations? Do you have existing outdoor improvements or amenities - such as bird feeders, garden beds, or student work stations - that will be useful for the project you propose? Is the administration particularly supportive? Are volunteers available?* \*

---

---

---

---

---

41. **Identifying Project Challenges:** It is important to recognize and plan for challenges. What is the greatest obstacle you anticipate facing and how will you deal with it? *Examples: Is the bell schedule limiting for meaningful outdoor learning? Do you or your students have reservations about going outside? Is your school campus almost entirely paved? Do students lack appropriate clothing for the weather or other conditions? How do you anticipate solving these problems?* \*

---

---

---

---

---

42. **Project Success:** How will you know if your project is successful? Identify at least one measurable project goal and how will it will be assessed. *Examples: "Project will provide outdoor work surfaces for 30 students to conduct labs and investigations." or "Project will enable 60 students to visit XYZ Nature Center to learn about GA ecoregions related to 3rd grade GSES (science standards)" or "Students will design and plant a 30' x 10' (300 sf) pollinator garden to provide habitat for larval and adult stages of monarch butterflies"*

---

---

---

---

---



43. **Project Continuation after Grant Period** \*

In the late '90s and early 2000s, the State of Georgia offered a statewide outdoor learning program that awarded 1,000 grants over 10 years. An evaluation of that program - called "[Planning First to Make Your Outdoor Classroom Last](#)" - offers valuable insights into which projects lasted and which were soon abandoned. Applicants are encouraged to read this document. Among its conclusions: having a team approach increases the longevity of outdoor learning programs; investing in professional learning for teachers is one of the most effective ways to embed outdoor learning in the school culture; and prioritizing active student investigations and projects is one of the most successful ways to use outdoor spaces.

Tell about an aspect of your proposed project that is intended to contribute to its duration, longevity, or long-term success, and why.

---

---

---

---

---

44. **Durability, Maintenance and Sustainability** \*

How will your project use sustainably-sourced and durable materials, including supplies that are repurposed or contain recycled content? How will your project avoid single-use disposables; reduce waste; deter vandalism or theft; contribute to ease of maintenance; and / or promote practices that encourage widespread, long-term use of outdoor learning spaces?

---

---

---

---

---

- 45. Optional Narrative Upload (If your project narrative exceeded space in this form, you may upload it as a Google document here. Be sure to list section headings and questions)

Files submitted:

**BUDGET**

Grant proposals may range from \$500 to \$5000.

- 46. **Budget Spreadsheet Upload**

Please follow these directions exactly so that your proposal can be reviewed:

- 1) Make a copy of the [GOLD Grant budget form](#)
- 2) Add your organization's name to the title of the form
- 3) Complete the Budget Summary on page 1
- 4) Complete the Itemized Grant Budget on page 2.
- 5) Complete the Budget Narrative Page 3
- 6) Click the Share button at the top of your budget and change the Access to: "Anyone with the Link may View"
- 7) Click File --> Download and save Budget to your computer. Then browse your files, find the saved Budget, and upload it below. (Alternatively, you may provide a link to the google spreadsheet instead of uploading the document, by pasting the link as a response to the next question).

Files submitted:

- 47. **Budget Spreadsheet Link**

You may provide a link to your budget (in a google spreadsheet) instead of uploading a saved document. To provide a link, go to your budget document, click Share, select "Anyone with Link may View", and paste the link below.

---



---



---



---



---

## THANK YOU

We appreciate the energy and care that went into your proposal. It is anticipated that award notifications will be made by December, 2024. If you have any problems submitting this application, please contact [info@eealliance.org](mailto:info@eealliance.org) before the September 16, 2024 deadline.

### 48. Additional Information or Comments

---

---

---

---

---

---

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms

