

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM GARDEN MINI-GRANT PROGRAM



Grant Criteria Information and Application Form

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I. Project Objective

The Outdoor Classroom Garden Mini-Grant Program is designed to show that agriculture is an integral part of our everyday environment. Farms, wildlife, forestry, people and cities are all interrelated with agriculture. As most of Arkansas wildlife resides on and feeds off of private property, including farms and timber lands, the gardens can demonstrate the connection between agriculture, food, fiber, conservation, wildlife, and the urban environment.

It is the intention of the Outdoor Classroom Garden Mini-Grant Program to provide educational opportunities to classroom and youth organizations that will increase agricultural literacy in Arkansas

II. Criteria for Schools, 4-H Clubs, and FFA Chapters

- A minimum of 100 students for average daily attendance.
- Garden must be located on or adjacent to the school site.
- Project must be advised by an Agriculture Extension Agent.
- Project must also be advised by an NRCS Area Conservationist.
- A farmer volunteer, preferably a county Farm Bureau board member, must also serve as a project advisor.
- Teacher and parent involvement is mandatory.
- Cooperative efforts are encouraged.
- Most importantly the gardens must contain production agriculture crops, such as cotton, wheat, soybeans, etc. . and/or garden vegetables.
- Good usage of water quality and soil erosion control methods is required.
- This funding may not be used for flower, butterfly, or nature trails. However, they may be included in your project at someone else's expense.
- Outdoor Classroom Garden projects may include productive livestock. Grants may be awarded for developing pasture or hay ground.

III. General Information about the Mini-Grant

Foundation committee members will evaluate each application for proper criteria and study objectives before grants are awarded. Notification of acceptance or rejection of application will be delivered in writing. Money will be awarded by the county Farm Bureau leadership. Recognition, therefore, may be given on both the state and local level. There is no application deadline. Applications will be accepted as long as grant funding is available. Up to \$500 may be awarded for new garden sites. This must include matching funds. Up to \$250 may be awarded for on-going garden projects. This also must include matching funds.

IV. Matching Funds

The following is a list of resources that may be able to provide matching funds for the Outdoor Classroom Garden:

- No Child Left Behind (subject to school system approval)
- County Farm Bureau
- Local Farmers Cooperative
- Agricultural business and organizations
- Lumber yards, hardware stores etc...
- In-kind support, i.e. equipment, labor, materials, etc. . .

V. Questions

Any questions regarding the Outdoor Classroom Garden Mini-Grant Program should be directed to the following contact at the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation – 501-224-4400:

Andy Guffey – Coordinator, Education & Ag in the Classroom • Extension 1219

**Application
for
Arkansas Agriculture in the Classroom
Outdoor Classroom Mini-Grant**

School / Organization Information

- Name of School / Club: _____ Average daily attendance: _____
- County: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Project Coordinators

- Name(s) of coordinating teacher(s)
 - _____
 - _____
- Phone number where you can be reached to discuss plans:
(School phone) _____ Best time to call: _____
(Home phone for _____): _____ Best time to call: _____

Advisors

- Agricultural Extension Advisor: Name: _____ Phone: _____ Signature: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
- NRCS Conservationist Advisor: Name: _____ Phone: _____ Signature: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
- Farmer Volunteer Advisor: Name: _____ Phone: _____ Signature: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Cooperating Organizations

- List other cooperating groups:
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

Funding Request

- Value of matching sponsorship (please include specifics on in-kind gifts): \$ _____
- Amount of grant money you are applying for (*Please note: This amount cannot exceed the amount listed in the question above. The maximum amount for a start-up grant is \$500. The maximum amount for an ongoing grant project is \$250*): \$ _____

Project Plans

- On an attached sheet(s) of paper, please describe and/or outline your project plans. Please include time table, agriculture production crops, specific need for funding, role of the cooperators, curriculum correlation, and visuals (i.e. drawings, illustrations, maps, photographs, etc. . .)

School Principal Signature

Coordinating Teacher Signature

Return completed application to:

Arkansas Ag in the Classroom
Arkansas Farm Bureau
P. O. Box 31
Little Rock, AR 72203-0031