

UMRCC Field Trip Fund Application Information

The Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee (UMRCC) Field Trip Fund program is a grant initiative designed to help formal and informal educators in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri connect members of the public to the upper Mississippi River and Illinois River. Individual grants will not exceed \$1000.

Our goal is to connect people to nature and encourage a sense of stewardship of the Mississippi River. We seek to develop knowledge of, appreciation for, and stewardship of the Mississippi River, its fish and wildlife, and its habitats. Meeting this goal may include varied activities such as studying water quality and the Mississippi River watershed, engaging in outdoor related recreational opportunities, and participating in post-experience activities such as writing, mapping, or art.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is the UMRCC? The UMRCC was established in 1943 to “Promote the preservation and wise utilization of the natural and recreational resources of the Upper Mississippi River and to formulate policies, plans and programs for conducting cooperative studies.” The UMRCC is an organization of Upper Mississippi River states. Members include staff from federal, state, and non-profit organizations from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri. For more information on our organization, visit: www.umrcc.org

Who is eligible for the field trip grants? Grants are intended to support educational programming (either formal or informal) located in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, or Missouri. Applicants must have nonprofit status (educational institution or 501c3).

What kind of experiences and activities can we do? River activities should provide participants with hands-on experiences in the realms of science, social studies, or other river-related concepts. Meeting this goal may include a wide variety of activities. Examples of eligible experiences include:

- Classroom exploration of the Mississippi River watershed, followed by a field trip to examine water quality and other activities.
- Engagement in outdoor related recreational opportunities, for example: kayaking, canoeing, fishing, or hiking while discussing cultural history and ecology.
- Community science activity to observe migratory waterfowl and their habitats.

We encourage post-trip activities such as writing, mapping, or art activities to help deepen the participant’s knowledge of the Mississippi River and develop a sense of stewardship.

Where should we go for the activity? Destinations along the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers may include state parks, state wildlife areas, national wildlife refuges, locks and dams, county parks, or museums that specialize in interpretation of the Mississippi River.

When should I send in an application? The grant cycle for 2024 is limited, with applications being accepted between November 20 and December 8. Grantees will be notified by December 17.

Where should I send the completed application? Send an email with a completed application as an attachment to: UMRCC Coordinator, Neal Jackson at: neal_jackson@fws.gov.

How will I be notified if I have or have not been awarded a grant? The UMRCC Coordinator will notify applicants of their award status by email.

How are grants paid? Grant recipients will receive a check made payable to the organization.

UMRCC Field Trip Fund Application Form

Organization:

Street Address:

City/State/Zip:

Tax Exempt Number:

Proposed Date(s) of Event:

Applicant Name:

Applicant E-mail:

Applicant Phone:

Expected participant demographics:

Age	Number
Pre-K or younger	
K-8	
High School	
College	
Adult	

Will this event engage: veterans? Y / N
underserved minorities? Y / N
disabled? Y / N

Applicant's River Experience: (Briefly describe your prior experience with the Mississippi / Illinois River. Could include ecological, cultural, historical, etc.)

Event destination, purpose, and activities: (Briefly describe how this event will connect participants to the Mississippi River, including associated pre- or post-event activities)

Budget: (Provide a detailed description of expenses, including transportation, admission fees, materials, food, etc. Please include all expenses, even if paid by other funds.)

Amount requested from UMRCC: (not to exceed \$1000)

If offered, would you be able to accept partial funding? Y / N

Are matching funds being used? If so, please describe.

Where did you learn about this opportunity?

Agreement: I certify that the information in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge. My organization assumes all liability associated with the activity proposed. If I am selected to be a recipient, I give permission to UMRCC to use my name and information regarding the field trip for publicity purposes. I will submit a brief written report that summarizes how the trip helped participants develop knowledge of, appreciation for, and a sense of stewardship of the Mississippi River (examples are welcome along with photos) to the UMRCC Coordinator within 30 days of the event.

Applicant's signature: _____ Date: _____

If you have further questions or comments, contact the UMRCC Coordinator
Neal Jackson at neal_jackson@fws.gov or at 618/579-3129.