FY26 Youth Environmental Education Grant Program

# Narrative Questions

Applicants will be asked to upload a Word or PDF file addressing the following questions into their online application, as well as relevant information as described in the Eligible Project Tracks section of the Request for Proposals (RFP). Make sure that your answers describe how the criteria in the “Evaluation Criteria” section of the RFP will be met. Remember to highlight if the proposed project incorporates climate change education (for youth, student, or educator projects) or takes climate change into consideration when planning/building outdoor classroom, school-yard habitat, or community-based improvement projects. The RFP and online application are located here: <https://cbtrust.org/grants/youth-environmental-education-grant-program/>.

1. **Project Track:** Indicate to which track you are applying (Out-of-School Outdoor Investigations for Youth, Outdoor Classroom/School-yard/Community-Based Improvement, Professional Development, or In-School Pre-K-12 Student Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs).
2. **Project purpose:** Please provide a brief (up to 5 sentences) summary of the project. Include the following:
   1. Goals (overall aim the program or project will help achieve, which may extend beyond the term of the grant);
   2. Objectives (specific, measurable steps within the grant period that will help realize the goal), and
   3. Grade level(s) and participating school(s) or school district(s) or relevant youth organizations and age(s).
3. **Project Description:**
   1. For **Track 1:** **Out-of-School Outdoor Investigations for Youth** and **Track 4: In-School Pre-K-12 Student** **MWEE Projects**, answer the following questions:
      1. What is the driving question that will determine the youth or students’ issue investigation?
      2. Provide a brief list of the outdoor experiences that will occur.
      3. Please describe the action project or if youth/student-directed, potential action projects. \*Please note, action projects should implement solutions to the issue identified through the MWEE project and should go beyond sharing information.
      4. Describe how youth/students will reflect on what they have learned throughout the MWEE and how they will share their knowledge with peers and parents.
   2. For **Track 2:** **Outdoor Classroom, School-Yard Habitat, or Community-Based Improvement Projects**, answer the following questions:
      1. How will youth/students be involved in the planning and implementation of the project?
      2. How will the project be used for future outdoor/MWEE investigations?
      3. For school-based projects: will the project be used for Green School/Sustainable School certification or re-certification? If yes, please list the applicable program. (See [Bay Backpack](https://www.baybackpack.com/action-projects/national-state-green-school-programs) for more information on programs in your state).
      4. Include all required supporting attachments, as listed in the “Project Types” sections of the RFP.
   3. For **Track 3:** **Professional Development Projects**, answer the following questions:
4. Trainings and workshops should support elements of the MWEE model, such as the investigation of a local environmental issue, using the outdoors as a context for learning and instruction, and/or design and implementation of an action project. Describe which elements of the MWEE model will be integrated into the training.
5. How will participants be recruited?
6. Describe:
   1. The ongoing support educators will receive following the training,
   2. How implementation of the new content and tools will be evaluated, and
   3. What resources educators will have access to, to be successful.
      1. The Trust encourages professional development to be at least 30 hours, including workshops and ongoing support to ensure that participants are successful in using the information gained from the trainings.
7. Include a Draft Agenda (if not available then please justify why). A component of all professional development trainings should be a requirement for participants to complete the [MWEE 101 Online Course](https://cbexapp.noaa.gov/course/view.php?id=5555) and/or include an overview of the MWEE model to ensure participants are able to use what is learned to design, enhance, and/or implement their own MWEE.
8. **Demographic Information:** In light of the Trust's commitment to the advancement of diversity in its award-making, please provide:
9. Demographic information about the community or population involved in or served by the project,
10. A description of audience need, as outlined in “Evaluation Criteria/General Criteria for All Requests/Audience Need” in the Request for Proposals (page 10), and
11. Your organization’s experience working within the specific communities that you will be prioritizing. If you have not had significant experience within your prioritized demographic, please explain how you intend to address this issue. The Trust encourages applicants not based in the communities prioritized to establish partnerships with local organizations that may have greater cultural competencies within the priority demographic(s) and to compensate partners for their time in contribution to the proposed work.
12. **Sustainability**: The Trust aims to invest in projects that have the longest potential longevity, after the grant period has ended. Discuss the future you see for the work for which you are requesting funds. What factors may affect its long-term value and how will you ensure its long-term value is maximized? If the project or program will need ongoing financial resources to maintain its value, please provide an abbreviated plan describing how the project will be sustained beyond the term of the proposed funding request?