



Utah Children's Outdoor Recreation & Education Grant



Utah Governor's Office of
Economic Development
OFFICE OF OUTDOOR RECREATION



The Utah Children's Outdoor Recreation & Education (UCORE) Grant program is administered by the Utah Office of Outdoor Recreation (OOR). UCORE funds programming that provides Utah's children with outdoor recreation opportunities that are nature-focused and provide hands-on learning opportunities.

UCORE programs provide high-quality, outdoor-focused learning experiences to youth ages 6-18. It teaches them physical skills that can make outdoor recreation part of a healthy and active lifestyle.

UCORE empowers Utah communities to engage their youth in outdoor recreation and educational activities, focusing on youth in their community with the greatest need.

Types of Outdoor Activities Eligible for UCORE Grants:

Nature Discover

- Birdwatching
- Junior naturalist activities
- Nature study (including scientific-oriented activities)
- Outdoor stewardship activities
- Planting a seed
- Stargazing/Astronomy
- Wildlife viewing
- Wildlife viewing/Photography

Outdoor Adventures

- Outdoor adventure challenge course
- Camping
- Canyoneering/Rappelling
- Climbing (all types)
- Navigation and/or geocaching
- Shooting sports (archery, target shooting, biathlon)
- Skateboarding
- Slacklining
- Outdoor yoga

Trail Activities

- Backpacking
- Bicycling (any type)
- Equestrian (trail)
- Hiking
- Off-road vehicles (UTV or ATV)
- Trail running

Winter Sports

- Outdoor ice skating
- Skiing (all types)
- Snowboarding
- Snowshoeing

Water Sports

- Boating (motorized)
- Canoeing/Kayaking/Rafting
- Fishing (all types)
- Sailing
- Snorkeling/Scuba diving
- Stand-up paddleboarding
- Outdoor swimming

UCORE funds are given as a 50/50 match. Up to half of the applicant match may be an in-kind match, or 25% of the total project. The grant cycle is open January 15 – February 20, 2020.



Eligible Applicants

- Educational institutions
- Local governments (including counties, cities, park and recreation districts, etc.)
- Tribal governments
- Nonprofit organizations

Qualifying Programs

- Help children develop skills needed to participate in one or more outdoor recreation activities
- Outdoor-focused program that provides physical activity for youth ages 6-18
- Incorporate nature-based and hands-on learning opportunities to teach science concepts in an outdoor setting
- Engage children in one or more of the activities of Utah’s Every Kid Outdoors (EKO) Initiative

Other Components

- Project should have clear and measurable objectives. Show us your action plan with a clear measure to evaluate success
- Programming should be held in the Utah and is primarily for children who currently reside in the state. Funds will not be awarded for travel outside the state

In 2016, Utah had a pilot program to fund grants for children’s outdoor educational and recreational programming. 43 programs requested funding, 16 received funding (a total of \$100,000) for projects including:

- Mountain biking
- Tribal youth camp
- Winter programming
- Adventure camps
- Adaptive programming
- Summer camp
- Geocaching hike and seek
- Community fishing

Why Should You Care?

The average child spends 7.5 hours a day in front of a screen and only 7 minutes a day outside. 1 in 5 children are obese, leading to serious physical, social and emotional health concerns.

Indoor sedentary time can lead to social isolation and chronic disease for children. Only 19% of Utah adolescents are meeting the recommended amount of physical activity.

Why Should You Apply?

Research shows that getting kids involved in nature activities at a young age increases their continued participation as adults. Time in nature has positive physical mental, social and behavioral health outcomes for children. It lowers stress levels, lowers blood pressure, and engages less fit children in physical activity. It has been shown to decrease attention problems, reduce aggressive behavior and increase social development.

Contact Us

For more information and to access the application, please visit business.utah.gov/outdoor/ucore. The Utah Office of Outdoor Recreation administers the UCORE grant program.

Questions? Please contact the Utah Office of Outdoor Recreation:

Program Manager Tara McKee: tmckee@utah.gov or (801) 538-8686

Program Assistant India Nielsen: indianielsen@utah.gov or (801) 538-8705