

## Kids' Outdoor Skills Academy FAQs

**What is the Kids' Outdoor Skills Academy:** It's the Porkies version of the Michigan State Parks Outdoor Skills Academy (OSA) that offers expert instruction, gear and hands-on learning for a range of outdoor activities for schools and organized groups from the region. In the first year, Kids' OSA at the Porkies will offer a variety of kids and groups from the region – snowshoeing, orienteering, backpacking, and archery. Classes explore each topic in-depth, for a half day or full day, with knowledgeable and skilled instructors leading the way. Participants will receive a certificate of completion for each class, with special recognition for Outdoor Skills Academy “graduates” who complete multiple classes.

**Who may apply:** Schools and non-governmental organizations that want to bring youth to the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park to learn outdoor skills in an environment dedicated to Leave No Trace,

**Why apply:** To help local youth explore and learn outdoor skills that will last a lifetime while experiencing the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park.

**What grant money may be used for:** Grant funds can be used for transportation costs and other expenses directly associated with the visit to the park but cannot be used for salary. Identify other matching funding you have for your activity and the minimum funding that you could accept.

**How much is awarded:** Depending on the number of applications, monetary awards are typically in the \$150 to \$300 dollar range but may be higher if the travel plan is more complex.

**What must be done after the event/program ends:** A grant recipient must provide a final report to the Kids' OSA coordinator that includes how funds were used, number of participants, and outcomes achieved upon program completion. Photographs and creative expressions of the participants are encouraged and the Friends and Park may use them to promote the program.

**When to apply:** Applications for activities planned for January 1 through December 31, 2023, can be submitted starting now.

**Criteria for awarding:** The following criteria will be used in evaluating all proposals:

1. Number and diversity of local youth and/or people with special needs who benefit from the proposal.
2. Brings participants to the park to learn new outdoor skills, Leave No Trace and outdoor ethics help protect Park resources.
3. Additional activities at the park build on the Kids' OSA activities.

**How to apply:** Applications must include the information requested on the Kids' OSA Application Form. Complete and submit the online application at: [Mini-Grant Program | Friends of the Porkies](#) or print and mail to Kids' OSA 2023, Katie Urban, 33303 Headquarters Road, Ontonagon, MI 49953.