



YOUTH OUTDOORS GROWTH AND INNOVATION (YOGI) GRANT

Formerly known as the Nevada Outdoor Education and Recreation (NOER) Grant Program

2027 GRANT MANUAL

This manual supersedes all previous manuals and guidelines

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1 Grant Summary

Youth Outdoors Growth and Innovation (YOGI) Grant Program

	Microgrants - Tier I	Impact Grants - Tier II
Purpose	To provide high-quality outdoor education and recreation opportunities for Nevada youth facing barriers to outdoor access.	
Who may apply?	Public agencies, private nonprofit organizations, tribal governments, schools, and other community-based entities that provide outdoor education and recreation programs for Nevada youth.	
Match required?	None required, but recommended	
Application deadline	October 5, 2026	
Projects selected	December 2026	
Grant limits	Up to \$7,500	\$7,501 to \$50,000
How is my application evaluated?	Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and/or NDOR staff review and score the written application.	Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviews and scores applications based on written application materials and presentations.

2 Funding Description

Youth Outdoors Growth and Innovation (YOGI) Grant Program

The Youth Outdoors Growth and Innovation (YOGI) Grant Program — formerly offered as the Nevada Outdoor Education and Recreation (NOER) Grant — is administered by the Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation (NDOR). Although the program now carries a new name, its purpose remains the same: to support exceptional outdoor education and recreation experiences for Nevadans aged 18 and younger across the state.

Through the YOGI grant, NDOR provides funding to schools, nonprofit organizations, tribal governments, and other community partners to provide outdoor education and recreation programs or outdoor recreational infrastructure projects for youth in the state who help young people engage with Nevada’s natural, ecological, agricultural, and cultural landscapes. The program continues the legacy of NOER by ensuring that every Nevada child — regardless of background or barriers — has the chance to learn, play, and grow outside.

This youth-focused grant is part of NDOR’s broader expansion of outdoor education and recreation opportunities across Nevada. The Nevada Outdoor Education and Recreation (NOER) Grant Programs still exist and now serve as the umbrella for the YOGI Grant, the Community Outdoor Recreation and Revitalization (CORR) Grant, and the Cosmos Across Nevada (CAN). More information about these additional opportunities can be found at www.ndor.nv.gov.

As the NOER program grows to serve additional audiences and project types, YOGI now stands as the dedicated funding stream supporting work with young people. Legislative support has made these efforts possible through a biennial \$500,000 appropriation (\$250,000 a year for two years). Recent grant rounds have helped thousands of Nevada youth explore archery, backpacking, skiing, snowboarding, and field trip experiences to national parks and monuments—demonstrating the meaningful impact of outdoor learning throughout the state.

YOGI Goals & Priorities

- Provide Nevada youth with high-quality opportunities to directly experience the natural world.
- Expose young minds to the natural environment, agriculture, and natural resources to promote environmental literacy.
- Improve academic performance, self-esteem, personal responsibility, community involvement, personal health, and/or understanding of nature for all Nevada youth.

Primarily focused on serving youth who face barriers to outdoor access, as measured by committee review of the written application and eligibility for free or reduced-price meals pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1751 et seq., or an alternative measure prescribed by the State Board of Education.

3 Grant Application Timeline

The YOGI application timeline (pre-application to grant award) spans approximately five (5) months.

Application and Selection Timeline

Projected Dates	Milestone	Details
Aug 3 – 30, 2026	Application Feedback Period	Application materials become available at https://ndor.nv.gov/yogi-grants . During the month of August, NDOR staff provide feedback on submitted grant applications, allowing for corrections or updates to be made before final submissions are due.
Aug 31 – Oct 5, 2026	Application Remains Open	The application submission window remains open, but feedback is no longer available. Incomplete applications received after October 5, 2026, will be rejected unless the program has approved late submission in advance.
Oct 5 – Nov 2026	Written Application Review	Staff and TAC members review applications to ensure eligibility. Grant requests of \$7,500 or less may be reviewed by staff only, as determined by the Administrator.
Nov 18, 2026	In-Person (or Virtual) Presentations	Required for top-scoring Tier II applicants. The TAC scores Tier II applications based on written materials and presentation.
Nov 18 – Dec 16, 2026	Committee Recommendation	The TAC and/or NDOR staff submit a ranked list with recommendations to the Administrator for final project selection.
Dec 2026 -- Jan 2027	Project Approval and Agreements	Selected projects are notified and confirmed. Program staff prepares and sends out funding agreements for signature.

4 Eligibility and Funding Guidelines

Eligible Applicants

YOGI grants are open to organizations that directly provide outdoor education or recreation programming to Nevada youth. The following entity types are eligible to apply for YOGI grants:

- Public agencies including federal, state, county, city, and local governments
- Public, private, and/or charter schools, including individual school sites and school districts applying on behalf of one or more sites
- Private nonprofit organizations
- Tribal governments and tribal organizations
- Community-based entities

Applicants may partner with other organizations to deliver a project, but a single eligible entity must serve as the lead applicant, hold the funding agreement, and be responsible for reporting and compliance.

Eligible Program and Costs

Grants support outdoor environmental, ecological, agricultural, cultural, or other natural resource-based education and recreation programs serving Nevada youth through age 18, with priority given to children facing barriers to outdoor access.

Funding from the YOGI grant program may be used for:

- Outdoor education and recreation;
- Outdoor environmental education;
- Agricultural education;
- Natural resource-based education and recreation;
- Conservation education;
- Ecological education;
- Environmental stewardship education; or
- Environmental restoration education.

Examples of eligible program activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ✓ Backpacking
- ✓ Camping
- ✓ Non-motorized boating such as canoeing, kayaking, rowing, or sailing
- ✓ Environmental outdoor education
- ✓ Ranching
- ✓ Snowsports and activities
- ✓ Fishing

- ✓ Hiking
- ✓ Hunting
- ✓ Orienteering
- ✓ Outdoor based after school programs and camps
- ✓ Outdoor cooking
- ✓ Mountain biking
- ✓ Rock climbing
- ✓ Electronic devices (and associated software) such as Global Positioning Systems (GPS), avalanche beacons, tablets, etc., if used as part of the program
- ✓ Camping equipment and supplies
- ✓ Entry and use fees
- ✓ Fishing equipment and supplies
- ✓ Food and non-alcoholic beverages
- ✓ Hunting and archery equipment and supplies
- ✓ In-state transportation and travel, including to bordering counties and cities in other states
- ✓ Leasing transportation, mileage, and gasoline
- ✓ Lodging and facility rentals for programs and events
- ✓ Staff time directly related to project
- ✓ Infrastructure related to outdoor programming
- ✓ 10% Administration fee

Ineligible Programs

Ineligible program activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ☒ Organized Team Sports (i.e. baseball, soccer, or basketball)
- ☒ Promotional or fundraising events
- ☒ Projects that do not have an outdoor component
- ☒ Out-of-State Travel, except for bordering counties and cities
- ☒ Out-of-State Students
- ☒ Purchase of automobiles, vehicles, or boats with motors
- ☒ Pre-agreement Costs, unless pre-approved by Administrator
- ☒ Religious activities

Indirect Costs

Your proposed budget may include an administration fee of up to 10% of your total request and does not require backup documentation or receipts. The administration fee covers indirect costs associated with the project such as the costs of operating and maintaining facilities, insurance, internet and phone services, administrative salaries, and other overhead costs. If your organization has a federally recognized Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA), please submit that documentation to the grant manager prior to submitting your final application. Rates exceeding 10% may be considered.

Match Requirements

Matching funds are not required but are strongly encouraged so grantees can demonstrate local commitment and help maximize YOGI program funds. Projects with match receive additional points (see scoring matrix for details). Because the maximum match score is capped at 50%, providing additional matching funds beyond that threshold will not increase an applicant's score. We encourage applicants to allocate any excess matching funds to other grant projects or initiatives, helping expand opportunities for more Nevada youth while reducing administrative burden across the program.

Matching funds may be actual cash or in-kind resources contributed to the grant. All costs paid with matching funds must be for activities eligible under the YOGI Program. Matching funds must be supported by documentation that provides the same level of detail and verification required for reimbursable expenses.

More information on match eligibility can be found in section 7 Reimbursement Guidelines.

5 Project Evaluation

Evaluation Basics

Microgrant Tier I Application (\$7,500 or less)

Microgrant applications are first reviewed by NDOR staff to determine eligibility. Eligible applications are evaluated based on the written application materials and scored using Sections 1–4 of the Scoring Matrix, with a maximum possible score of 70 points. Scores are based on the point values and evaluation criteria outlined in the matrix.

Microgrant applications may be reviewed and scored by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC); however, TAC review is not required for microgrant awards. Final microgrant award selection is determined by the NDOR Administrator.

Impact Grant Tier II Application (\$7,501 to \$50,000)

All applications are reviewed by NDOR staff to determine eligibility. The Technical Advisory Committee evaluates and scores Tier II written applications to determine which projects advance to the presentation round. In-person (or virtual) presentations to the Technical Advisory Committee are required for top-scoring grant requests over \$7,500.

Impact Grant (Tier II) applications are scored in all sections (1-5) of the matrix for a maximum of 100 possible points. Section 5 Program Impact of the matrix focuses on the strongest five of nine potential impacts of the proposed project. These nine impacts have been identified by research as potential outcomes of outdoor recreation and/or education programming:

- 🌱 **Connect Youth with Nature:** Nature connectedness happens when individuals feel they belong in and are a part of nature. Projects may provide significant time outdoors, sensory interaction with the outdoors, opportunities to form social connections or

facilitate positive experiences and moods in nature, or education about Nevada's nature.

- 👉 **Academic Success:** Programs may teach core curriculum or standards, incorporate experiential learning, teach academic or transferable skills, or focus on youth at risk of academic failure.
- 👉 **Environmental Literacy:** Programs may teach ecological skills and knowledge to empower youths' decision making, actions, and attitudes toward conservation.
- 👉 **Foster Stewardship:** Programs may provide opportunities to care for the environment, teach responsible care and compassion, or demonstrate good stewardship practices through volunteer work, service learning, or other activities.
- 👉 **Physical Health:** Time spent outdoors can improve physical and mental health. Programs may involve physical activity and/or outdoor time or teach nutrition and outdoor recreation skills.
- 👉 **Self Confidence:** Programs may teach markers of social-emotional learning or provide opportunities for leadership, self-reflection, growth, independence, or setting and pursuing personal goals.
- 👉 **Personal Responsibility:** Programs may provide opportunities to learn about or improve one's impact and ties to other beings and ecological communities.
- 👉 **Cultural Education:** Programs may provide opportunities to learn about or engage with diverse peoples, histories, ecosystems, outdoor activities, or ways of knowing, including Traditional Ecological Knowledge, the arts, and play.
- 👉 **Community Involvement:** Programs may introduce youth to new places, people, and organizations in their community; foster responsible citizenship; create opportunities for them to improve their community; and provide space for environmental learning, community science, or collaborative problem-solving.

Technical Advisory Committee

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the YOGI grant program consists of the 12 voting members of the Advisory Board on Outdoor Recreation. Per NRS 407A.610, the Advisory Board on Outdoor Recreation serves as a technical advisory committee to assist and advise the NDOR Administrator in developing and administering the Grant Program. The TAC recommends policies and procedures to NDOR staff and reviews, evaluates, and scores grant applications. Tier II applications require TAC review, and eligible applicants may be asked to present their proposed project to the TAC in addition to the written application.

Scoring Matrix

Section 1: SERVES CHILDREN WHO FACE BARRIERS TO OUTDOOR ACCESS (TOTAL 20 points)										
% of youth qualify for free/reduced lunch									Max of 10 points	
% of youth facing barriers to outdoor access									Max of 10 points	
0 points	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 points
No youth facing barriers	≤ 15%	16 - 29%	30-39%	40% - 49%	50-59%	60 - 64%	65-69%	70-75%	76-89%	90% ≥
Section 2: ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW (TOTAL 10 points)										
0-3 points		4-6 points				7-10 points				
• No goals or values are provided. • Insufficient organizational history is given.		• Some organizational goals and values align with NOER priorities. • Some organization history is described.				• Organization goals or values clearly align with NOER priorities. • History of success in fulfilling grant projects or other activities related to the project.				
Section 3: SCOPE OF WORK (TOTAL 20 points)										
Scope of Work									Max of 15 points	
0-5 points		6-10 points				11-15 points				
• No goals or objectives are stated. • Lasting impacts/benefits stated, but not evident.		• Includes moderate level of detail and describes how project relates to youth. • Objectives and/or deliverables are included, but they are vague and inconclusive.				• Includes detailed description of project. • Clearly identifies realistic objectives and deliverables for youth. • Describes how project will accomplish goals.				
NDOR Grant History									Max of 5 points	
1 point	2 points		3 points			4 points		5 points		
Had two (2) or more NDOR grants with complications.	Had one (1) previous NDOR grant with complications.		Had two (2) or more Previous NDOR successful grants.			Had one (1) previous NDOR grant.		New applicant.		
Section 4: BUDGET (TOTAL 20 points)										
Overall Budget									Max of 10 points	
0-3 points		4-7 points				8-10 points				
Budget provides little or no description of costs; budget plan is not complete.		Provides a vague or brief description of costs; details for requested funding are limited or costs seem too high or low.				Provides a specific description of costs and how money will be spent; requested funding is detailed and reasonable.				
Match									Max of 5 points	
1 point	2 points		3 points		4 points		5 points			
No Match	Match is less than 1:1 (50%) but unsecured		Match is less than 1:1 (50%) and secured		Match is 1:1 or more and unsecured		Match is 1:1 or more and secured			
Cost per Youth Participant									Max of 5 points	
1 point	2 points		3 points		4 points		5 points			
Highest cost per child ratio	In the highest 1/3 of applications		In the middle 1/3 of applications		In the lowest 1/3 of applications		Lowest cost per child ratio			
Section 5: Tier II Only - PROGRAM IMPACT (TOTAL 30 points, 6 points per impact)										
1 point	2 points		3-4 points		5 points		6 points			
No response or weak explanation(s).	Extremely vague justifications or incomplete explanation.		Justification is sound but deficiencies are noted.		Minor flaws noted but good outcomes are still expected.		All aspects of the intent are clear and well described.			

6 Grant Administration

Post Award

Once the funding agreement is fully executed, applicants officially become grantees and may begin incurring eligible project costs in accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreement. Only expenses incurred on or after the effective date of the fully executed agreement are eligible for reimbursement.

Each funding agreement outlines the specific requirements and conditions of the award and will be monitored by the Program to ensure compliance with program rules. Funding agreements must be signed and returned within thirty (30) calendar days of the award notification date. Applicants must submit all required information and documentation necessary to execute the agreement within this time frame. If an applicant does not complete these steps within thirty (30) calendar days of award notification, NDOR reserves the right to withdraw the award and reallocate the funding.

Project Implementation

Grantees must complete projects in accordance with the approved scope of work, project timeline, and budget outlined in the executed funding agreement. To support successful project completion, accountability, and responsible use of grant funds, grantees must:

- Submit projects that can be completed within the approved grant period.
- Begin project implementation promptly and demonstrate measurable progress toward approved project milestones.
- Complete project activities as approved unless prior written approval is received from NDOR for any changes to the scope of work, project timeline, or approved budget.

Scope of Work and Budget Changes

Communication with the Grant Manager is essential to successful project implementation. Grantees must contact the Grant Manager as soon as a potential change to the approved project scope, timeline, or budget is identified. Prior written approval from NDOR is required before making significant changes. Costs or activities that are changed without prior approval may be determined ineligible and may not be reimbursed. Early communication is encouraged, as changes are easier to address and resolve before costs are incurred or project activities are completed.

NDOR may terminate funding agreements for projects that do not meet critical milestones or comply with the requirements established in the project funding agreement.

Reporting and Reimbursement Requirements

Reports and reimbursement requests are due within fifteen (15) days after the end of each reporting period. Progress reports are required for every reporting period, even if no project activities occurred. Reimbursement requests are only required when eligible expenses are incurred. These reporting requirements allow NDOR to monitor project progress, verify expenditures, and assess program outcomes.

Microgrant (Tier I) Reporting Requirements

Microgrant recipients must submit two (2) progress reports, a mid-project progress report and a final report according to the schedule below.

Microgrant (Tier I) Reporting Requirements	
Reporting Period	Due Date
January 1 – June 30, 2027	July 15, 2027
Final Report: July 1, 2027 – January 15, 2028	January 30, 2028

Impact Grant (Tier II) Reporting Requirements

Impact Grant recipients must submit four (4) quarterly progress reports and associated reimbursement requests according to the schedule below.

Impact Grant (Tier II) Reporting Requirements	
Reporting Period	Due Date
1st Quarter: January 1 – March 31, 2027	April 15, 2027
2nd Quarter: April 1 – June 30, 2027	July 15, 2027
3rd Quarter: July 1 – September 30, 2027	October 15, 2027
Final Report: October 1 – January 15, 2028	January 30, 2028

Grantees are reimbursed for actual eligible expenses up to the approved award amount. For example, if a grantee is awarded \$15,000 but only incurs \$12,000 in eligible costs, reimbursement will be limited to \$12,000. Reimbursements will never exceed the total approved award amount.

Written final reports are required for all grantees.

Project Completion and Final Reporting

A final report is required for all completed projects and may be submitted in place of a quarterly progress report if all project activities have been completed by the reporting deadline. Final reimbursement will not be issued until the final report has been satisfactorily completed and accepted by NDOR.

Final reports must include completed project metrics, including:

- Number of children served by grade band;
- Number of hours youth participated in outdoor activities;
- Types of sites used for program activities;
- Number of jobs directly supported by grant funds; and
- Summary of project accomplishments, outcomes, and highlights.

7 Reimbursement Guidelines

Reimbursement Requests

The YOGI program distributes grant awards through reimbursement. Grantees are expected to pay for expenses upfront. Grantees should plan their cash flow accordingly, since grant funds will not be available to cover costs before they are incurred.

Reimbursement requests must be submitted according to the reporting schedule outlined in the Reporting and Reimbursement Requirements section. Awardees are reimbursed only for actual expenses incurred, up to the total award amount. Unspent funds are not reimbursed and do not carry forward beyond the project period unless prior approval is granted by NDOR.

Required Documentation for Grant Reimbursement

To ensure timely and accurate reimbursement, all applicants must submit complete and verifiable documentation. The following materials are required for every reimbursement request:

1. Reimbursement Request Form

- The official reimbursement request form must be completed in full.
- All line items must be listed with accurate descriptions and totals.
- The form must be signed by the authorized representative.

2. Mileage Documentation

- Mileage expenses must include mileage logs detailing dates, start and end locations, and miles traveled.
- Each mileage entry may be required to be supported with screenshots from mapping software (such as Google Maps or similar) showing the calculated mileage.

- Mileage shown in logs and mapping screenshots must be within a 10% margin of error of each other.
 - Documentation that falls outside the margin of error may be subject to denial or revision.

3. Invoices and Proof of Payment

- All reimbursement requests must include itemized invoices showing goods or services provided, dates, and descriptions.
- Proof of payment must accompany each invoice. Acceptable forms include receipts, bank statements, copies of canceled checks, or other payment confirmations showing dates and transaction details.
- Invoices submitted without proof of payment cannot be reimbursed.

4. Labor Costs

- Labor reimbursements must include timesheets showing hours worked, dates, and roles or tasks performed.
- Proof of payment (e.g., payroll reports, pay stubs, or payment confirmations) must be provided for all labor expenses.
- Labor requests without both timesheets and payment verification cannot be processed.

If any of these documentation requirements present a barrier, applicants/grantees are strongly encouraged to contact the Program for assistance as early as possible to work towards accommodations. Requests submitted without adequate supporting documentation will be returned to the grantee for correction, which can delay payment.

Eligible Match

A grantee's matching share may include one or a combination of the following. As with volunteer labor, each source of match must be tied to eligible YOGI activities and supported by records an auditor could use to verify the value claimed.

Match, or cost-sharing, is the portion of a project's total cost not covered by YOGI grant funds, requiring the recipient to contribute funds or resources from other sources such as additional grant awards, volunteer labor, or donations. Match provided cannot be used as match for other grant programs. Match should be reported with the same standard as reimbursable funds with proof of funding spent.

Volunteer Labor as Match

Volunteer labor may be used as an in-kind match contribution when the volunteer work directly supports eligible YOGI Program activities and is necessary to complete the approved project scope. Volunteer labor must be performed by individuals who are not being compensated with grant funds, project funds, or other sources of reimbursement for the same work.

For the purposes of the YOGI Program, volunteer labor will be valued using the Independent Sector's published volunteer hourly rate for Nevada, currently established at **\$32.49 per hour**.

If a grantee believes a different volunteer labor rate is appropriate based on the type of work performed, the applicant must provide justification for the alternative rate, including documentation supporting how the value was determined.

Volunteer labor must be documented through records that identify the volunteer's name, date(s) of service, hours worked, description of activities performed, and the specific grant activity supported.

Not Allowed as Match

The following are not permitted as matching contributions. NDOR staff review reported match against these criteria during application review and again during reimbursement. Match that fails these criteria will be removed from the project's match total and may affect an application's score.

- Costs that are double counted — any cost, cash contribution, or in-kind contribution claimed as match on more than one project or grant, whether funded by YOGI or another source
- Anything considered an ineligible cost or activity — match must meet the same eligibility standard described under Eligible Programs and Costs; a donation or in-kind contribution toward an ineligible activity cannot be counted as match simply because no grant funds were spent on it
- Costs that are not necessary or an integral part of the project scope — general organizational overhead, unrelated programming, or contributions that would have occurred regardless of the YOGI-funded project do not qualify, even if they are otherwise documented

Audits and Recordkeeping

All records relevant to YOGI-funded projects must be on file with the grantee and are subject to audit by the state and inspection by NDOR staff. Full and free access must be allowed to project documents, including accounts, records, and books of the grantee, which must be retained for three (3) years after project completion. The Administrator reserves the right to require records to be kept longer.

All grantees are required to establish and maintain accounting systems and financial records to accurately account for awarded funds. Accounting systems for all projects must ensure that costs applied to the grant are recorded in a manner to allow for budgetary and auditing purposes. Reports must include information pertaining to the progress made towards achieving project objectives, explanations for any deviations from planned activities, as well as quantitative and qualitative data on activities and outcomes. In addition to progress reports, the Program may conduct periodic site visits to evaluate project performance and internal controls of fiscal tracking.

Administration Fee and Indirect Rates

An administration fee or indirect rate up to 10% of the eligible reimbursable subtotal is allowed if awarded as part of the original, approved budget. This fee is intended to support indirect costs associated with administering and implementing the project, including expenses such as facility operations and maintenance, insurance, internet and phone services, administrative salaries, and other general overhead costs.

The administration fee or indirect rate does not require supporting documentation or individual expense verification. Applicants should include the administration fee as a separate line item in the proposed project budget. This fee will be reimbursed at the rate per each reimbursement request for actual expenses incurred.