



Application ID

# 2021–2022 Get Outdoors Grant Application

Visit [vof.org/go](http://vof.org/go) for more info.

Submit questions and completed application to [grants@vof.org](mailto:grants@vof.org).

Applications due by 11:59pm on Friday, August 20, 2021.

Note: This application and any materials provided may be shared with the public without any notice to applicant.

## Application Assistance

VOF staff are available to assist at any time during the application process. Please contact the grant program manager at (434) 282-7054 or by email at [grants@vof.org](mailto:grants@vof.org) to discuss the GO Program or potential ideas for a proposal. We can help determine a local VOF staff contact who may assist with developing your application, telling the story of the project, scheduling a site visit, or selecting support materials for submission.

## Applicant Information

Organization name

Type of applicant/ partner organization	Individual	Non-profit	Local	State	Regional
	Tribal	VOF	Other	<i>Other types of entities must contact VOF prior to application to determine eligibility.</i>	

Contact person

Mailing address

Phone number

Email address

Partner organizations (if applicable)

## Project Information

Project name

*This name will be used in public relations and grant documents should funding be awarded.*

Project location (latitude/longitude required,\* other location info such as street address or tax parcel ID optional)

Latitude:

Longitude:

Other:

If project is located on property not owned by the organization applying for funds, does the landowner agree to the proposed use of their land?      Yes      Not yet

If you selected "Not yet," please describe arrangements in place with the landowner.

Grant funding request (min. request \$500, max. request \$25,000)

Would you like to be considered for any other VOF grant program if eligible?      Yes      No

\*See application guide for directions on using Google Maps or contact [grants@vof.org](mailto:grants@vof.org) to ask for help getting lat/long coordinates.

## **Application Questions**

1. Provide a brief (500 characters max) summary of this project in the space below. Please note this summary will be shared with the public and replicated for press releases and grant documents should funding be awarded.

2. Describe the project. Include a detailed explanation of the project including the purpose, planned deliverables, and desired goals/results.

3. Describe the community being served by this project and community support for this project. Describe how the community has been involved in the development of this proposal and/or will be involved in the implementation of this project. Describe how community support is shown for this project or projects of this type.

4. How does this project address a specific need in the community or provide a unique service to the community?

5. Describe the timeline/plan of work for this project. Include who is expected to do the work and when. Work that has already been completed toward the project should be mentioned here.

6. Describe how funds will be budgeted for this project. If the scope of the project is larger than the GO grant request, include any additional funding from other partners, grants, volunteer hours, or materials or services donated.

7. Provide any other information about this project that makes it unique/special. If the location of the project or the focus on the project has special significance to the community, please describe it here.

## Supplemental Material

Up to 4 pages of supplemental material, 5 digital photos, and/or 5 minutes of digital video/audio may be submitted to support the project proposal. The purpose of the additional material should be to inform VOF about the unique qualities of the project and the community benefitting from the project. Creativity is welcome, but the supplemental material page limit is firm. Anything beyond four pages will not be considered. See application guide for additional information and examples of support material.

Supplemental material included?

Yes

No

Question 2: Extended- Students that participate in the updating and upkeep of the trail will participate in workplace readiness training, problem solving, critical thinking, creative thinking, and collaboration. They will be given the opportunity to develop something that benefits all students in Pulaski County Public Schools, and eventually, the New River Valley. Upkeep and updating will be a yearly project, with a new group of students taking a leadership role in the development and planning process. The project started with the clean up and general maintenance of a trail located on the school's campus. This has been used as an outdoor classroom but over the years the condition of the trail has declined. The project will focus on restoring the current trail, maintaining the trail, and incorporating new trails throughout the woods. While working closely with the Life Centered Education class, Special Education Teacher, the Fisheries and Wildlife students and students in Life Centered Education will talk about how it is to be visually impaired and their mobility impairments and talk about what would help them if they were to visit the trail. The Fisheries and Wildlife and Horticulture students will create exhibits that are educational to all grade levels but also accessible to a person with visual impairments and mobility impairments. They will also incorporate sensory positive areas with what nature provides along with adding in different elements such as a large wind chime that students can work with to create different sounds. Having the native plants incorporated in the trail will provide students the opportunity to activate their sense of smell with an herb patch as well as a wildflower area located at the entrance of the trail. Agriculture students will conduct research and create educational exhibits that will go throughout the trail so learning can happen even when not planned. They will also work on making audio recordings for each exhibit. The audio will go over all of the written text and also go into further detail about the exhibit. At the exhibits, the Construction students will create a concrete paver and some type of structure to help display the information for the exhibit.

The Life Centered Education class has a braille maker and will put braille on the displays for the visually impaired directing them to the audio element. The Fisheries and Wildlife class will work alongside the Life Centered Education class to maintain the trail once it is finished by clearing paths, raking leaves, picking up litter and removing the trash bags. This project will start out with a goal of three exhibits but will continue to grow with each semester. Each semester we would like to add something new to the trail such as a new exhibit or permanent structure or even making the trail longer. The Horticulture classes will work on adding native plant species to the trail and start to turn it into a garden for the animals to enjoy. Too many times animals are removed from gardens because they are seen as pests but on this trail, we want wildlife to thrive and use what we have provided to their advantage. Our hopes are to have native plants for each season for the native pollinators and to document and label the plants for others to learn from. This will be a great space for everyone and could be something that they can learn from and adapt some portion of our project to their own land such as incorporating more native plants in their gardens and welcoming wildlife. The overall goal is to have an area that all people can have access to regardless of their abilities that is ADA compliant and serves as an educational environment. This project will continue to grow as the years go on and will be a destination for those in Virginia. We hope that once it is officially open that this will be a field trip location where other schools in Virginia will want to come and experience the Sensory Trail. We want to train students in the Life Centered classes to give tours which would later lead to potential job opportunities in our local state park. Though we are only at the beginning stages of

the project, we have accomplished many difficult tasks all while working around Covid-19 restrictions and we do not plan to stop anytime soon.

Question 5: Extended- The ADA compliant wheelchair accessible raised garden bed was finished and installed. The apple trees bloomed which was a surprise to all and apples began to form on the trees that had not beared fruit in years. May 2021 was when we planted many of our plants and placed mulch in the flower beds, mulch was donated to us by the Pulaski County Public School System. The information Keyois was built by one of the construction classes and installed at the front of the trail.

In June 2021, all of the plants had been planted, the mulch was all placed out and the pathway had been cut out but school was now over for the year and the students had left. The Agriculture department won the Keep Virginia Beautiful Mini Grant for the Sensory Trail project. July 2021 several students volunteered to come out weekly to mow and weed eat the garden area and maintain the area as best as they can. Milkweed plants have matured and Monarch butterflies have been seen in the garden and have laid eggs. Four eggs have been seen and four caterpillars are eating away at the milkweed.

In August 2021 this application is being filled out in hopes to fund the equipment needed to level out the ground and to purchase the guide ropes and poles needed for the trail. Students start back at school on the 18th and will get right to work on planning the work to be done on the trail. Waysides will be created, designed and built. The collaboration with the TV Media class will start and scripts will be written out.

September 2021 will hopefully be when we can get a bobcat back over to scrape the grass and level the trail out under and around the apple orchard so we can begin laying the rocks down. Additional raised garden beds will be planned and started along with the installation of the chalkboard wall art that students designed last school year.

As the semester progresses the goal is to have the path laid out with the rocks and have everything level. The Sensory Trail will have a ribbon cutting ceremony in April when the apple trees are in full bloom. By April we would like to have three educational exhibits installed and having the QR codes working with their videos. We would like to have at least 10 plants labeled in large print that are ADA compliant and have several sensory areas fully operational and labeled. We would like to have the guide ropes installed but that is one of the bigger challenges we face as they will be difficult to install and are expensive. We also would like to start the construction on the new portion of the trail that will go into the woods which means that some trees will have to be removed, more invasive species will be removed and machinery will be needed. By the end of the school year we hope to have visitors scheduled to tour the Sensory Trail and have the garden area complete with all plants planted, benches built, waysides installed and working, tour guides trained and guide ropes working. With each passing year we plan to continue to work on the Sensory Trail by adding new things, fixing things that did not work out well and continuing the trail further into the woods. We want to offer other trail experiences that might be more challenging to provide everyone with different experiences.

#### Photos and external links

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EWMSwVOyCcM&t=5s>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ja3\\_yrUfYQY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ja3_yrUfYQY)

<https://www.wdbj7.com/2021/04/09/pulaski-county-high-school-students-build-a-sensory-walking-trail-for-all-abilities/>

<https://www.wdbj7.com/2021/04/23/pulaski-county-high-school-teacher-recognized-as-a-harmony-hero/>



Pulaski County High School students build a sensory walking trail for all abilities

