



Youth Outdoor Recreation Program (YORP) School/Site Application for the 2020-2021 Year



Venture Outdoors is a nonprofit organization in Pittsburgh that believes everyone deserves the chance to feel comfortable in the outdoors. Thanks to various grants, we partner with different organizations and schools to provide youth with outdoor educational programming in the greater Pittsburgh area. Collectively, these partnerships are part of the Youth Outdoor Recreation Programs (YORP). YORP provide students with the knowledge and guidance to inspire our young minds to explore the outdoors. In a YORP partnership, Outdoor Educators will facilitate a variety of outdoor lessons.

These include recreationally based activities, such as hiking, biking, kayaking, geocaching, and fishing, and educationally based activities, such as outdoor survival skills or nature science experiments. This may include taking students to local parks, indoor lessons, or experience new locations. Through these activities, students will experience the outdoors through a new lens that allows them to gain a new sense of knowledge and appreciation.

Venture Outdoors' YORP programs began in 2014 with 6 partners. In the 2019-2020 school, we have had the opportunity to work and grow with 10 partners and 3 alumni partners. Programming begins in the fall and continues throughout the school year either in weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly activities.

Application Timeline:

We are now seeking school and after-school site partners for the 2020-2021 school year!

Applications are **due by June 10, 2020** for consideration for Fall 2020.

Please direct general questions to Lo Zemanek at:

Lo@ventureoutdoors.org
412-255-0564 ext. 230

If there comes a day that we can no longer provide programming to your site Venture Outdoors staff will provide partners with resources to continue outdoor activities. This includes lesson plans & ideas, and other resources to help you facilitate outdoor activities for your Youth.

YORP Partner Application Criteria:

The application that follows will enable our team to evaluate whether a YORP Partnership would be a good fit for your school or after-school setting. **Sites that meet the following criteria will be eligible to be considered for the 2020-2021 school year.**

School/site criteria:

- Complete application (Parts 1-5) emailed or submitted by postal mail.
- Located in Allegheny County.
- At least 4 organized and motivated people in your Venture Outdoors team. Groups can include any site staff and parents.
- Signatures of support from school principal or site director.
- Schools or sites serving student populations recognized as "economically disadvantaged" by PPS

Note: If you don't meet these criteria, please submit as much information as you can and we will try to help you in other ways.

For assistance, please contact:

Lora (Lo) Zemanek, Youth Program Manager
Lo@ventureoutdoors.org, 412-255-0564 ext. 230





Part 1: CONTACT INFORMATION

The success of a YORP partnership relies on committed and engaged teachers, site staff, and parents. Please identify at least four individuals that would like to serve on your site's Venture Outdoors team. These individuals might include teachers, volunteers, staff, parents/guardians of students, or other individuals associated with the site. The first name should be the primary contact person. Responsibilities of the team include communicating with Venture Outdoors staff about needs, programming logistics, etc., ensuring that all students and accompanying staff have signed Venture Outdoors Acknowledgement of Risk forms, preparing students for Venture Outdoors outings, and helping engage families in activities. Venture Outdoors will provide you with the necessary tools to complete these tasks.

Primary Contact Person / Team Member #1

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Role and relationship to site: _____

Team Member #2 (will become Primary if Team Member #1 is unavailable or leaves)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Role and relationship to site: _____

Team Member #3

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Role and relationship to site: _____

Team Member #4

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Role and relationship to site: _____



Part 2: SCHOOL/SITE INFORMATION

School/Site Name: _____

Address with ZIP Code: _____

Phone: _____

Director/Principal Name: _____

Director/Principal Email: _____

Director/Principal Phone: _____

School District: _____

Neighborhood: _____

Student Diversity

Note: Complete this section only if this information is accessible to you; leave blank if not.

% Black:	% Hispanic/Latino:	% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander:
% Asian:	% _____:	% Middle Eastern/North African:
% White	% Multiracial:	% American Indian/Alaskan Native:

Total Number of Students: _____

Grade Levels Served: _____

What is the estimated percentage of students that are considered "economically disadvantaged" as outlined by PPS? _____%



Survey Questions (The questions below will not be used to determine the eligibility of your site for the YORP program. They are for survey purposes only.)

Does your site already have an outdoor space on the property?

Is your site close to a nearby park? If so, which one?

Does your site have an active parent organization?

Is your school or site able to provide transportation for special field trips?

Are you able to send at least one staff member or site volunteer with our staff?

Preferred day and time for YORP programming? (i.e., Tuesdays from 4pm – 5pm)

Preferred activity frequency? (Weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly)



Part 3: YORP PARTNERSHIP PLAN

How would you define a successful outdoor/environmental educational program at your site?

How would you like your students to benefit from a YORP partnership?

Does your site have family programs? Please outline them.

Family Trips: One expectation of program partners is for Venture Outdoors to host at least one family trip per school year. Please outline three potential dates/times that you and your families can go on a family trip or when Venture Outdoors will be invited to your school/site family nights or open houses.

Preferred Date and Time #1: _____

Preferred Date and Time #2: _____

Preferred Date and Time #3: _____

Would you be able to provide transportation for off-site family field trips (Y/N)? _____



Program Sustainability: One of the goals of YORP Partnerships is to reach as many students as possible with high quality programming. Unfortunately, that means we may only be at your site for a few years. By partnering with Venture Outdoors, we hope that you can continue a commitment to facilitating outdoor activities. We will provide resources and training you need to carry on the impact of Venture Outdoors.

What barriers do you see occurring if Venture Outdoors can no longer continue a partnership? Please outline any strategies you have for continuing outdoor educational learning.

Is there anything else you would like us to know about, such as any concerns? This will not impact your application and is for survey purpose only.

Leadership Training: One expectation as a partner site is that you send staff, parents or volunteers through a Venture Outdoors Outdoor Leadership training to enable you with the skills to take your kids outside on your own without Venture Outdoors. Please list three dates (date and times) for potential Outdoor Leadership Trainings for you and your staff (up to 20 participants). This training takes 3-4 hours. This training is FREE for all attendees.

Preferred Date and Time #1: _____

Preferred Date and Time #2: _____

Preferred Date and Time #3: _____

Can we conduct the training at your site (Y/N)? _____



Part 4: EVIDENCE OF SUPPORT

Please provide the following signatures and contact information as evidence of support for this program. It is essential that all key personnel, including principals, directors or and custodial staff are in support of this partnership.

Site Director or School Principal:

Signature

Printed Name

Date

Phone Number



Part 5: AGREEMENT & EXPECTATIONS

If selected to participate in a Venture Outdoors YORP Partnership, I, the Primary Venture Outdoors contact, agree to (please initial each):

- _____ Communicate with Venture Outdoors staff about needs, logistics, cancellations, etc.
- _____ Ensure that all participants, including chaperones and accompanying staff, have completed Venture Outdoors Acknowledgement of Risk forms.
- _____ Prepare students for venture outdoors Outings, including helping with managing behavior and ensuring that they have appropriate attire.
- _____ Help engage families in Venture Outdoors Activities, including registration and advertising.

This application is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Primary Contact's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Applications are due June 10, 2020 to be considered for Fall 2020.

Please postmark OR email completed application to:

Venture Outdoors
Attn: Lo Zemanek
33 Terminal Way #573A
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Lo@ventureoutdoors.org



Addendum: OTHER COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR YOUR STUDENTS

Grow Pittsburgh: This application was inspired by our friends at Grow Pittsburgh (thank you!). Read more about their community opportunities and apply for their school learning garden by visiting their site [here](#)!

