



WILDERNESS INQUIRY

Anyone. Anywhere. Anytime.



OUR MISSION: built on adventure

Wilderness Inquiry's mission is to connect people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities to each other and the natural world through shared outdoor adventures. We seek to create equitable access to outdoor participation and engagement, and reduce the opportunity gap faced by BIPOC and low-income youth, and youth with disabilities, by providing place-based opportunities to learn, explore, and come together in the outdoors. For 43 years, Wilderness Inquiry has provided access to the outdoors as a vital resource that improves social, economic, academic, and health outcomes. We open doors to new experiences, discovering what is possible when we all come together. Since our founding in 1978, we have directly served 500,000+ individuals from all walks of life. We do this through our Canoemobile's, Pyramid of Engagement, and Outdoor Credit Recovery.



THE PROGRAM: outdoor credit recovery

We partner with Minneapolis Public Schools to provide support for students to remain on track to graduate by recovering academic credit in subjects including science, math, history, social studies, and English language arts. Beginning in summer 2022, we are planning to expand this program to the Saint Paul Public Schools, with the long-term goal of continued expansion to districts across the state of Minnesota. This model is imminently scalable with the appropriate funding and partnership development. Wilderness Inquiry is uniquely positioned to engage this form of public support due to our replicable program model, program evaluation (with the University of Minnesota's Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement), network of partnerships, and ability to engage private sector funders to leverage and extend government support. Corporate and foundation funders include Nature Valley, the Outdoor Foundation, Polaris, RBC, REI, Thomson Reuters, Travelers, and Winnebago, among others.

700 students have earned credits through W.I.



THE BUDGET: a breakdown

Outdoor Credit Recovery Program Total: \$493.7K

- \$190,000 - Staffing
- \$43,700 - Fellowship
- \$25,000 - Curriculum Development
- \$15,000 - Accessible Equipment for Youth with Disabilities
- \$145,000 - Transportation (vans/mileage)
- \$75,000 - Evaluation/study of program impact & efficacy

This funding supports:

- Outdoor Credit Recovery programming in '22, '23 and '24 running 6 weeks per year across districts and serving 40 students per week.
- All current sites including two school districts in the 11-county Twin Cities metro area and two school districts in Greater Minnesota.
- Foundational investments for program expansion - including evaluation and capital investments that will allow for scaled growth to new school districts beginning in 2024.

In addition to budget totals above, significant in-kind resources will be contributed to this project by Wilderness Inquiry and school district partners. This includes administrative support, contributions of teacher salaries/time from school districts, and contributions from educational station partners (including federal land management agency rangers and staff).