

ENSURING **IMMERSIVE OUTDOOR**
EDUCATION IS ACCESSIBLE



Bringing the power of the outdoors to all Minnesota students.



About Outdoor School for All

Outdoor School for All is a statewide grant program that supports immersive, multi-day, accredited overnight outdoor education program experiences for students in grades 4- 12.

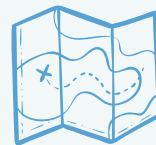
The grant provides state funding for program fees, transportation, and teacher stipends to ensure every student in the state has the opportunity to experience an accredited overnight Outdoor School Program.

2026 Legislative Session Outlook

- In 2025, the Outdoor School for All initiative was officially signed into law as part of Minnesota's Environment Omnibus Bill. It was one of the most bipartisan and widely supported bills in recent years.
- The initial appropriation provides approximately \$848,000 in grant funding to help Minnesota schools send students to one of the state's five accredited outdoor schools. The program is administered through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.
- SF 1050/HF 2548 will be reintroduced seeking supplemental appropriations with the intent of expanding access so more students can experience the wonders of nature through overnight outdoor education programs.



Teacher surveys indicate that lack of **funding is a top concern** for access to Outdoor School programming.



Only 29% of Minnesota students are able to access Outdoor School.



According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, the typical Minnesota student spends an **average of seven hours of screen time but less than 10 minutes of outdoor activity** each day.



There is the opportunity for **2,759 more schools** throughout Minnesota to attend Outdoor School.



66% of Minnesota principals say they need mental health support for students, and spending time outdoors **reduces stress by 30%**.



Sharing Minnesota's Legacy of Outdoor Heritage

Through Outdoor School for All Minnesota, students experience:

- Multi-day immersive outdoor school programming
- Improved academic outcomes in physical education, social studies, and physical and natural science
- Improved social outcomes, like self-esteem, critical thinking, and relationship building

Outdoor School For All Minnesota is not a mandate. Interested schools opt-in to participate in the programming and have the flexibility to choose from any accredited Outdoor School provider.



“Our students benefit from an outdoor education experience because they primarily come from low-income families who reside in an urban setting. Many of our families do not have access to such opportunities or trips outside of [Outdoor School].”

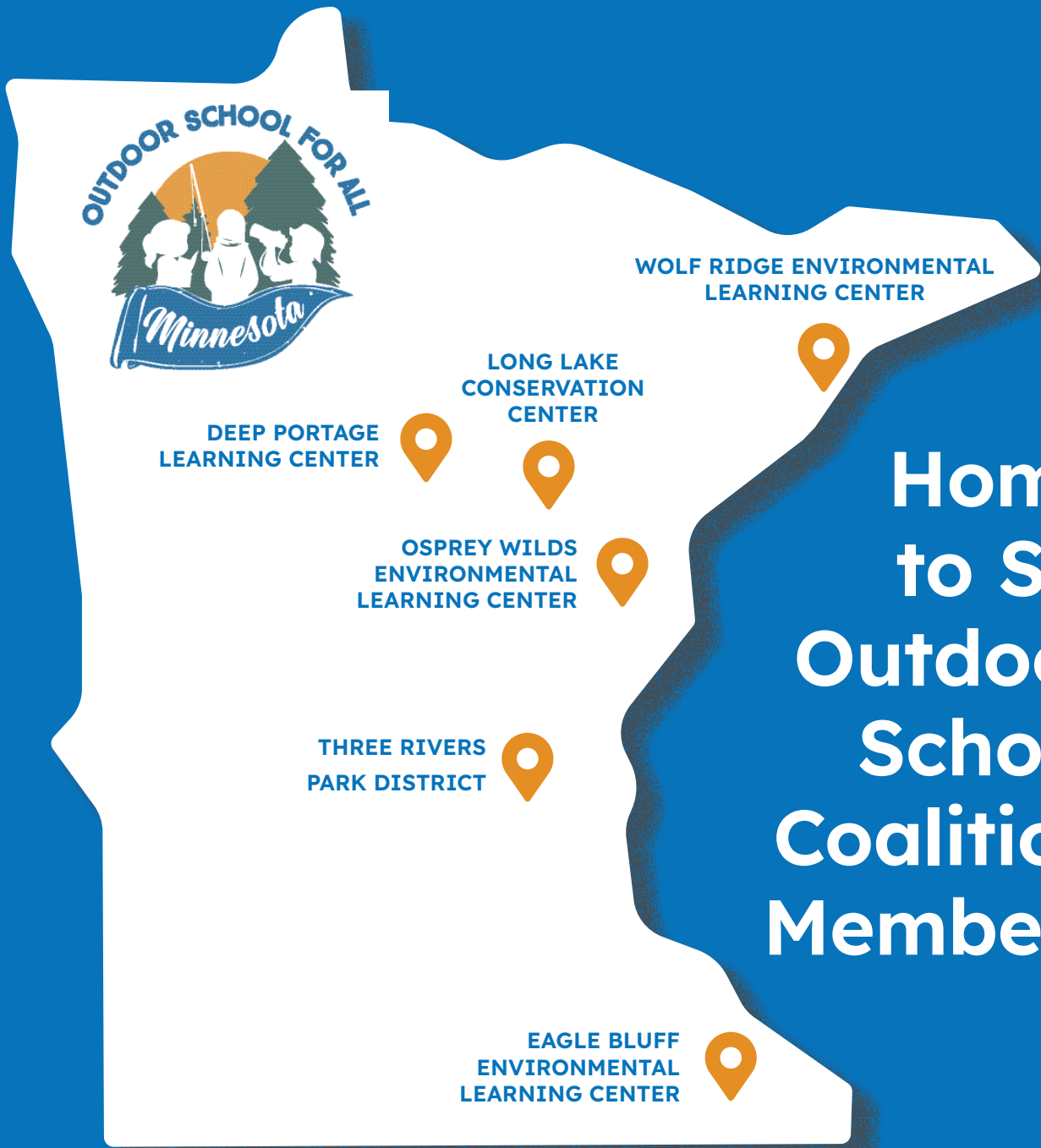
– Fifth grade teacher, Minneapolis

“Minnesota has a rich outdoor heritage and more school children need the opportunity to have quality outdoor learning experiences through the OUTDOOR SCHOOL FOR ALL program.”

– Senate Chief Author Sen. Grant Hauschild

“Access to healthy outdoor learning is essential to school age kids. The MN Outdoor School for All program provides for more children to attend quality outdoor learning schools which can include a wide variety of outdoor activities, including fishing, hunting, and foraging.”

– House Chief Author Rep. Roger Skraba



Home to Six Outdoor School Coalition Members

outdoorschoolforallmn.org

OVERNIGHT OUTDOOR SCHOOL COALITION MEMBERS

