

WATERSHED EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

Round 28

Sponsored by the Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) in partnership with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

Information and Guidelines for Applicants

Contact: CWC Education Coordinator Samantha Costa: 845-586-1400, ext. 104;
<https://cwconline.org/education-grants/>, scosta@cwconline.org

Application Deadline: Friday, February 7, 2025 by 4pm

Project period: Funded projects may not start before September 1, 2025 and are to be completed within 12 months of the contract execution date.

Purpose: To support educational programs and projects that increase awareness of the New York City Water Supply System and the Catskill-Delaware Watershed, (also known as West-of-Hudson Watershed, or “WOH”). The grant program seeks to increase communication and understanding among residents of New York City and its WOH Watershed.

The following topics MUST be integral parts of the proposal:

- 1. Fresh water;**
- 2. NYC Water Supply System; and/or**
- 3. The West-of-Hudson Watershed**

Proposals may focus on the critical role of nature and communities in protecting water quality in the watershed, the importance of water conservation, the history and contemporary use and operation of New York City’s vast water supply system, and/or the cultural and biological diversity of the city’s WOH Watershed.

Audience: This program supports Watershed Education projects for:

- 1. Students/Teachers:** Pre-K through 12th grade students and their teachers in the West-of-Hudson Watershed (also known as “WOH,” which includes portions of Delaware, Greene, Ulster, Schoharie, and Sullivan Counties), and/or in the five boroughs of New York City.
*NOTE: Proposals targeting audiences in the East-of-Hudson NYC Watershed, Nassau, or Suffolk Counties, or in other areas outside the WOH Watershed or NYC, are **not** eligible for funding.*
- 2. Public Audiences** (Adult or mixed ages), including college-age students, in the WOH Watershed.

There are TWO separate applications for the grants below.

Applicants for Student/Teacher grant may request \$750-\$10,000
Applicants for Public Audience grant may request up to \$5,000

Eligibility: You must be an educational institution (public or private), municipality or non-profit organization to apply. Organizations must attach proof of non-profit status.

Grant Terms and Criteria for Selection

1. Proposals **MUST** address the topics of:
 1. **Fresh water;**
 2. **NYC Water Supply System; and/or**
 3. **The West-of-Hudson Watershed**
2. Preference will be given to projects that:
 - Include matching funds or in-kind contributions
 - Promote upstate-downstate collaboration and communication
 - Engage West of Hudson audiences
 - Offer environmental career exploration and/or training
 - Have a community service component
 - Promotes environmental stewardship or sustainability
 - Address one or more of the following priority topics:
 - Role of communities in protecting water quality in the watershed
 - Importance of water conservation
 - Cultural and biological diversity of the WOH watershed
 - Impacts of climate change on the NYC Watershed and water supply system
 - History and contemporary use and operation of New York City's vast water supply system
 - Water supply system upgrades and engineering innovation
3. Proposals **MUST** include an evaluation plan that describes the criteria, procedures, and tools that will be used to measure outcomes and help you determine whether the stated goals and objectives of your project are met. Consult *MEERA (My Environmental Education Evaluation Resource Assistant)* at <https://meera.seas.umich.edu/> for guidance and information on evaluation tools.
4. Proposals **MUST** demonstrate how the project will be integrated into the existing curriculum. Student/Teacher Grant for projects shall supplement and expand upon existing school curricula and programs and must not merely replace or restore curricula or programs that have been the subject of reduced public funding.
5. Education funds shall not be used to pay for capital costs of constructing stationary facilities or acquiring any interests in real property.
6. Non-profit organizations may submit one application for a Student/Teacher Grant, and one for Public Audiences. Multiple submissions for Student/Teacher Grants may be accepted from different teachers at the same school. Teachers are encouraged to consider projects in collaboration with colleagues from their schools or with counterparts in other schools.
7. Funds for teachers shall only be for work on projects above and beyond the daily/normal responsibilities of faculty.

Proposal Submission, Evaluation, and Project Reporting

Applications that are missing ANY of the required elements or those submitted after 4pm on February 7, 2025 will **NOT** be considered for funding. Please read the instructions in these guidelines to be sure your submission is complete. Requests are evaluated by the Public Education Advisory Group (PEAG), a panel of Watershed educators from the West of Hudson Watershed and NYC DEP. PEAG recommends proposals for funding to the Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC). Such recommendations must receive the approval of the Catskill Watershed Corp. Board of Directors and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Recipient organizations must enter into a contract with CWC. A final report, including documentation of expenditures and an evaluation of project outcomes is required at the conclusion of the 12-month contract period. **Failure to submit this report is grounds for denial of future funding requests.**

Application Instructions

You will submit your application online using a website called Formsite. Read below for a description of the information you will be asked to provide online. We recommend that you develop your Project Description responses in a separate document beforehand and then copy and paste them onto the Formsite forms when you are ready. On Formsite, you are able to Save Progress and return to your partially completed application at any time.

Grant Application Cover Page:

1. You must be an educational institution, municipality, or non-profit organization to apply. Organizations must attach proof of non-profit status.
2. Provide an *original* name for your project, even if you are requesting a Special Option and include the grant amount you are requesting.
3. Provide the name of the person who will implement the project.
4. List collaborating organizations (e.g., environmental education centers, agencies, organizations, etc.), if any. Letters of agreement are **REQUIRED** from each such organization. Please combine into one PDF and attach.
5. Provide the project date range in which you expect to carry out the project.
6. If applicable, select a Special Option from the list provided (maximum of two); *Public Audience applicants please consult Samantha Costa if you are considering a Special Option.*
7. Identify your audience and the approximate number of people who will be reached or will benefit both directly (as active participants) and indirectly (as recipients of information). If you have a more specific target audience, please describe.

NOTE: NYC schools receiving CWC funds for overnight visits to Frost Valley YMCA that include strong forestry themes and Model Forest tours may automatically receive additional funding from the Watershed Agricultural Council's Watershed Forestry Bus Tour Program to help pay for travel costs. Your proposal must explain how the visit will enhance your students' understanding of how healthy forests protect water quality and must describe related pre- and post-visit lessons or activities. See Budget Instructions below.

Project Description Page: (500 words max for each category)

You **MUST** provide descriptions of the four project elements below. Be sure to address each. Up to two pages of supplemental material (example evaluation tools, personnel resumes, documentation about equipment, illustrations, etc.) may also be attached.

1. Goals and Objectives (What do you want to do and why?)

Statement of problem or need and how your organization is uniquely placed to meet this need.

What are the anticipated outcomes for the project? How do your anticipated results relate to the problem statement?

How does your program relate to 1. Fresh water; 2. The NYC Water Supply System; and 3. The West of Hudson Watershed?

If you have received previous CWC Education Grants, explain how the current proposal will build upon, benefit from or differ from earlier funded projects.

2. Methods and Activities (How will you carry out your project?)

Provide an overview of methods and activities.

How you will prepare students for the trip, program or project, and what follow-up lessons will be employed?

How long will it take (timeline, project schedule)?

Indicate who will be conducting each element of your proposal?

Name collaborating organization(s), if any, and describe their role(s).

If the project will produce a video, book or some other product, describe how it will be promoted and distributed.

3. Evaluation (How will you measure project outcomes?)

Proposals **MUST** include an evaluation plan that describes how you will measure outcomes and determine whether the stated goals and objectives of your project are met. A successful evaluation plan should include:

- 1) Objectives: Clearly defined audience objectives, including the specific knowledge, skills, attitudes and/or behaviors you want your audience to gain.
- 2) Methods: How you will collect and analyze data (qualitative or quantitative) from your audience, including the specific questions and/or tools (e.g., questionnaires/surveys, pre-/post-tests, observation forms, rubrics to assess student work, etc.) you will use. You may submit example evaluation tool(s) as an optional supporting document.
- 3) Discuss Results: How you will review and apply what you learn from your evaluation findings.

We strongly encourage you to include draft evaluation tools or samples of evaluation questions. Consult *MEERA (My Environmental Education Resource Assistant)* at <https://meera.seas.umich.edu/> for guidance and information.

4. Documentation and Outreach (How will you share outcomes with a broader audience?)

- o Describe how you will document your program or project. This can be done with a variety of media, including text, photographs, exhibits, videos and/or audio recordings.
- o How might the targeted audience(s) share the outcomes of this program or project with their school, organization and/or community (the indirect audience)?

Budget Page: (200 words max for each category)

Make sure that all elements of your project description are represented in the budget.

NOTES:

- *Food and meals are not fundable.*
- *Applications showing in-kind contributions will receive extra points during the review process.*

For each expense category, list how much you are seeking from the CWC, how much you propose to get from other funding sources, and an estimate of in-kind contributions (e.g., staff or bus driver salaries paid for by the school; printing costs absorbed by school or organization; unbilled professional services, etc.)

EXPENSE CATEGORIES

- o **Personnel:** School/Organization staff and/or outside presenters involved in the project. Include the *portion* of their salaries that will be dedicated to the project. Any administrative costs should be incorporated under School/Organization staff. Fringe benefits are limited to 25% of salary.
- o **Equipment/Supplies:** List all items and associated costs.
- o **Services:** Itemize technical, artistic, or creative services, venue rentals or other service providers that are NOT special options.
- o **Communications:** Flyers, mailings, advertising, web/social media, or other promotional costs.
- o **Travel:** Eligible costs include bus or van rental for trips to West-of-Hudson (WOH) Environmental Education Centers; WOH and NYC field trip sites, and East-of-Hudson or WOH trout release trips for *new* Trout in the Classroom participants; or vehicle mileage or mass transit costs incurred by personnel in delivery of services.

NOTE: NYC schools seeking CWC funds for overnight visits to Frost Valley YMCA that

include strong forestry themes and a Model Forest tour may automatically receive additional funding from the Watershed Agricultural Council's Watershed Forestry Bus Tour Program to help pay for travel costs. Include your estimated travel costs in the "Funds from Other Sources" column on the Travel line of the CWC Budget sheet.

- **Special Options:** Contact the vendor(s) to determine the cost of the program(s) you are interested in before filling in the budget. List each special option separately (maximum two).

Supporting documents:

- **REQUIRED** Proof of non-profit status (if applicant is an organization).
- **REQUIRED** Letter(s) of agreement from collaborating "organization(s), if applicable".
- **OPTIONAL** Example evaluation tools, personnel resumes, documentation about equipment, illustrations, etc.

Application Checklist

Before you submit your application:

- Have you met the application deadline?
- Are all applicable elements of your Project Description represented on the Budget Page?
- Are all expenses on your Budget Page included in your budget narrative?
- Have you included an evaluation plan?
- Does your proposal address at least two of the three core topics?
- Does your proposal demonstrate how the program or project will be integrated into the existing curriculum?
- If you are a non-profit organization, did you attach proof of non-profit status?
- Have you attached supporting documents (see above)?
- Have you included all of the requirements of your proposal with you application?

**HIT SUBMIT, TO SEND YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION
in an email to scosta@cwconline.org**

SPECIAL OPTIONS, For 2025-2026

Round 28

ARM-OF-THE-SEA THEATER

Contact: Patrick Wadden, Managing Director, 845-380-6559, bookings@armofthesea.org,
<https://www.armofthesea.org>

City That Drinks The Mountain Sky

This theatrical extravaganza combines visual storytelling and live music to tell the epic story of New York City's water supply system in the Catskill Mountains. Meet engineers who designed the system, and those who are now grappling with its aging infrastructure. See how mountain forests keep the water clean and gain new appreciation for this world-famous drinking water supply! First premiered in 1999, this show has been delighting and educating audiences for 25 years! View short video clip: <https://vimeo.com/254416133>

Riparian Rhapsody

This large-scale work of mask & puppet theater tells a beautiful story about Riparian Zones – those specialized areas at the edge of a river or stream where plants filter groundwater before it enters the stream. During flood events, they slow the rushing waters and hold the streambank in place.

RIPARIAN RHAPSODY dives into the history of the Catskill Region and celebrates the ecosystem services of forested watersheds. Featuring stunning visuals, live music, (and a singing Bear!), this production is designed for family audiences and school groups. This show was commissioned by the Rondout-Neversink Stream Program, a project of Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District funded by New York City Department of Environmental Protection. View a short video: <https://vimeo.com/775399755>

Study guides and post-performance discussion are included with each in-school performance.

Space requirements: 40'W X 25'D X 13'H.

Please make sure your venue can accommodate these large-scale shows.

The floor of a gym or cafeteria generally works best.

Arm-of-the-Sea provides all its own equipment, including sound system and lights.

ABOUT ARM-OF-THE-SEA

Founded in 1982, Arm-of-the-Sea Theater sparks wonder, engenders joy, offers insight and illuminates the life-support networks of this blue-ocean planet. The company is based in Saugerties, NY. Find out more at ArmoftheSea.org

WOH Watershed Schools ONLY: \$1,750 for one show; \$2,150 for two shows at same location.

NYC schools may not apply for in-school shows. Instead, they will be notified of large venue, multi-school NYC performance dates.

THE ASHOKAN CENTER

Olivebridge, N.Y., <https://ashokancenter.org/>, info@ashokancenter.org
845-657-8333 Ext. 27

The Ashokan Center offers watershed, science, and place-based programs within its 385-acre campus along the Esopus Creek and its immediate proximity to the Ashokan Reservoir. From elementary through high school, students come to the Ashokan Center to experience living history classes, inquiry-based science classes, team building, social emotional learning, as well as music and art. For our science-based classes, students collect data, record their observations in field journals, and consider questions of environmental conservation and our use of natural resources. These classes and programs include *Pond and Stream Investigations, Hydrology Lab, Forest Ecology, Animal Tracks and Traces, Hike to Cathedral Gorge, Explore and Draw Nature Journaling, and others*. Ashokan programs are aligned with the NYS Learning Standards including NYSSLS. Ashokan offers overnight programs ranging from one to four nights, with prices between \$220 (one night) to \$535 (4 nights) per person including meals, lodging, and programs. Nursing services, evening guest presenters, and overnight bunk chaperones may be added on by request for additional costs. Day trip prices are \$110/hour per instructor. (CWC does **NOT** pay for Ashokan's colonial living history programs.)

FROST VALLEY YMCA ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

Claryville, Ulster County, www.frostvalley.org, elarson@frostvalley.org 845-985-2291
Ext. 221

Frost Valley offers 9 science and water related programs including pond and stream ecology; wildlife, wilderness, or geology nature hikes; a Model Forest tour (which demonstrates sustainable forestry practices that protect water quality); water quality testing and acid rain study for students from elementary through high school level. (CWC does not pay for Frost Valley's team building or recreation programs.)

NOTE: 2025-26 Rates

A three-day, two-night stay costs \$265/person (students and chaperones) and includes room, board, six educational day programs and two evening programs. There may be opportunities for two-day, one-night options (\$215 per person). One-day trips with one or two water- and science-related programs are \$15 per person per program and adding lunch may be an option for \$10 per person. Scholarship assistance is available through an application process. Additional evening programs, and service-learning opportunities, may be selected. Call for rates Also available: One-day Model Forest tour with two related programs to help students understand the relationship between water quality and working forest landscapes and lunch: \$40 per person; \$30 per person if providing their own lunch.

All trips are based on availability and day trips and 1-night trips are very limited at this time.

NOTE: NYC schools seeking CWC funds for overnight visits to Frost Valley YMCA that include strong forestry themes and a Model Forest tour may automatically receive additional funding from the Watershed Agricultural Council to help pay for travel costs. Include your estimated travel costs in the "Funds from Other Sources" column on the Travel line of the CWC Budget sheet. You will be notified if your CWC-funded proposal is deemed eligible for additional support from WAC.

For a description of the Model Forest: <https://frostvalley.org/about-us/environmental-science/model-forest/>

**TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM, A PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM BETWEEN NYC
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND TROUT UNLIMITED**

www.troutintheclassroom.org, nalexander@dep.nyc.gov, 718-595-5101

Raise trout from eggs to fingerlings in a classroom tank, while learning about the NYC watersheds and water supply system. Students monitor fish development and water quality, then plan a trip to a watershed stream to release the trout. A high level of commitment is required all year long, from tank set-up in September through release of trout in the spring.

\$1,500 purchases a 55-gallon tank and all the required equipment (chiller, water conditioners, filter, pump from That Pet Place, and optional teaching aids etc.)

Year-long support is available from the NYC and Watersheds TIC Coordinator who coordinates the Fall TIC Teacher Training and trout egg pick-up in October, as well as permits and licenses for spring trout releases. This project is suitable for students in all grades.

NOTE: *First-time applicants:* Be sure to fill in the Travel line on the CWC grant budget page to request CWC funds to cover transportation costs to East of Hudson or West of Hudson trout release sites in the spring.

We will only fund a trip to release your trout to the East-of-Hudson Watershed (e.g. Ward Pound Ridge Reservation) for your first time as a new Trout in the Classroom applicant, future trips can be funded for trout releases in the West-of-Hudson Watershed.

HANFORD MILLS MUSEUM

Ryan Jones, Education Coordinator: ryanj@hanfordmills.org, www.hanfordmills.org
607-278-5744 x205

***Be sure to contact Ryan Jones before applying for any of the options to get the most accurate quote.**

Hanford Mills Museum, which features a historic water-powered mill system, offers place-based watershed education opportunities that center on the relationship between the Catskills and the NYC water supply system. Museum educators present programs to students throughout the WOH region that help them understand how the NYC water supply system works and why the preservation of healthy ecosystems in the Catskills is so important to that system.

Classroom Programs: Museum educators will visit your classroom and present a 45-60 minute program on one of several topics, including water pollution, watershed health and the relationship between healthy forests and clean water.

- **Cost for WOH schools:** starts at \$100 per program, depending on materials and distance from HMM
- **Cost for NYC schools:** Costs will be determined on an individual basis. Contact Education Coordinator Ryan Jones at ryanj@hanfordmills.org or 607-278-5744 x205 to discuss details prior to applying.

Virtual/Remote Classroom Programs: Hanford Mills educators will visit your classroom via zoom and present to your students using supplies and kits that are mailed to you ahead of time.

- Cost: \$150 per program, includes materials and shipping.

Classroom/Virtual + Field Trip Programs: For a more comprehensive experience, your students can visit Hanford Mills Museum on a field trip after our educators have visited your classroom. The field trip experience builds on the in-class learning objectives by giving students a first hand look at how watersheds connect and how communities share water. In addition to a tour of our working water-powered mill, students will play our Incredible Journey game where they trace the path of a water molecule through the mill site and learn about watersheds and the water cycle.

- Cost: Starts at \$200, depending on materials and distance from HMM

WATERSHED-BASED ARTS-IN-EDUCATION PROGRAMS WITH STORY LAURIE

Laurie McIntosh – storylaurie@gmail.com, 607-427-0840

www.storylaurie.com, harvestofsongs.com

***Teachers must contact the artist to discuss scheduling details before selecting Story Laurie's programs.**

Watershed Wonders

A lively interactive performance that introduces students to some of the myriad plants, animals, and water bodies that are part of the NYC watershed ecosystem. The program consists of highly engaging stories and songs about everything from porcupines to pollinators, rivulets to red pines, joe-pye, caddis flies, and even perchance a ukulele-playing bear. Students sing their hearts out to catchy tunes, and mimic the dance of wind-blown cattails or the flow of the river all while deepening their awareness and appreciation of the wonderful web of life found in the watershed.

Watershed Wonders' wide-ranging repertoire allows each performance to be tailored to different grades and curricular needs in the PreK-5 class range. Typically, performances are classroom-based to allow for greater interaction between the artist/educator and the students. Depending on class size, 2-3 classes can come together for a small interactive assembly in a classroom or multi-purpose room.

West-of-Hudson – one day visit: \$700; two one-day visits at same school \$1,200

NYC – one day visit: \$900; two *consecutive* one-day visits at same school \$1,600

Cultivating Connections Songwriting Residency

What better way to learn than by sharing your knowledge with others, and all the more so in a song! Cultivating Connections is a fast-paced group songwriting adventure in which students work with their classmates to write an original song on a watershed-related theme.

Story Laurie kicks off the residency by sharing songs written by other elementary students, to both inspire and introduce the basics of song structure. From there, it's a wild ride through the messy (and thrilling!) process of group songwriting. Classes have written songs on pond life in springtime; the Great Pacific Garbage Patch; aquatic habitats; insect life cycles; the journey of raindrops from sky to sea via tributaries; microplastics; and more.

Residencies often culminate in a performance, whether simply classes singing their songs for the other classes, or a more public performance where parents and other community members are invited to enjoy the student-written songs. For a public performance, typically we plan for four 40-minute workshop sessions per class, however shorter residencies are also an option. Call to discuss! Available for PreK-5.

Prices vary depending on the # of classes involved and total # of days, and whether culminating performance requires an additional musician. West-of-Hudson - \$2,000-\$3,400; NYC - \$2,700-\$4,600.

TIME AND THE VALLEYS MUSEUM

State Route 55, Grahamsville, 845-985-7700, info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org

**Field trips are 2 1/2 hours each and can be tailored to your interest or area
From 15 to 100 students**

**Cost: \$5 per student, Teachers and Chaperones - FREE
Call or E-Mail to Make Your Reservation!**

THREE interactive field trips available year-round, seven days a week

1. Water Through History

BECOME a Junior Paleontologist and identify fossils

DISCOVER a working water wheel and how it powers equipment

HANDLE Native artifacts to discover how they used and transported water.

LEARN about clean water, what makes water dirty and how to clean it.

2. 1930s Catskill Farm

EXPERIENCE life in the 1930s at an interactive Catskill Farm - house, numerous outbuildings and working water wheel.

EXPLORE engaging activities to learn about the farm family, farm animals, nature and water conservation all while having fun!

3. Upstate Water and NYC

EXPLORE an interactive exhibit on New York City's Water System.

SEE water contaminants. Make water dirty and clean it up!

LEARN about watersheds and importance of clean water.

FEEL the pain of losing your home, friends and community ties.

Grades K to 12 Field Trips Include:

- Preparatory/follow up materials
- Shop with educational souvenirs to reinforce learning
- Fully guided program with experienced educators
- Indoor/outdoor lunch area

WATER QUALITY TEACHING AIDS

Groundwater Contamination Kit

Available from Lab-Aids, Inc. <http://www.lab-aids.com>, 800-381-8003

- Trouble in Fruitvale: \$636 (includes teacher's manual and shipping)

[https://store.lab-aids.com/kits-and-modules/groundwater-contamination-trouble-in-fruitvale-developed-by-](https://store.lab-aids.com/kits-and-modules/groundwater-contamination-trouble-in-fruitvale-developed-by-sepup?objectID=1153&index=kits_and_modules&queryID=6728d94d892440f449e23c928156f7b5)

[sepup?objectID=1153&index=kits_and_modules&queryID=6728d94d892440f449e23c928156f7b5](https://store.lab-aids.com/kits-and-modules/groundwater-contamination-trouble-in-fruitvale-developed-by-sepup?objectID=1153&index=kits_and_modules&queryID=6728d94d892440f449e23c928156f7b5)

Explore earth science concepts such as the water cycle, map interpretation, and groundwater pollution in the fictional city of Fruitvale. Students design and carry out a plan for testing water to determine the contamination's source, severity, extent, and rate of travel. The data is used to analyze the risk to Fruitvale's water supply.

Students then explore clean-up options and hold a town meeting to decide which option to use. Materials come in a storage box; initial setup enough for use by 35 students.

Enviroscape Models

Available from EnviroScape, www.enviroscapes.com, learn@enviroscapes.com, 703-631-8810, x12

- Watershed and Non-Point Source Model: \$989 - \$1,538

<http://www.enviroscapes.com/watershed-nonpoint-source-model.html>

This unit includes nonpoint source landscape and user's guide. Two waterways flow into a larger water body, which is representative of a reservoir, lake, river, bay or ocean. The unit comes with a kit containing everything you need to demonstrate the movement of water through a watershed and the pollution that runoff may cause.

- Drinking Water and Wastewater Treatment Model: \$1,189 - \$1,738

<https://www.enviroscapes.com/product/drinking-water-wastewater-treatment-education-model/hands-on-models>

This unit shows where drinking water (residential and commercial, rural and urban) comes from and how it is delivered to us; what happens to water and waste after we use it (how sewage/wastewater is treated); and what biosolids are and how they are being used or disposed.

Your grant request should include cost of model(s) plus required accessories and shipping.