

The Natural Resources Council of Maine ([NRCM](#)) is Maine's leading nonprofit membership organization protecting our land, air, waters, and wildlife. We are located in Augusta, but our work reaches statewide. Our mission is to protect, restore, and conserve Maine's environment, now and for future generations. We use science, public outreach, and citizen engagement activities to restore Maine's watersheds; protect Maine's forestlands; increase clean and efficient energy; and promote sustainability initiatives such as composting and recycling.

For the second year in a row, and following a highly successful first year, NRCM is pleased to extend a grant opportunity to middle school teachers (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, or 8<sup>th</sup> grades) in Maine. We have eight \$500 grants available for projects that educate and engage students in Maine's environment and the value of protecting it.

#### Project requirements:

- Must take place in winter/spring 2017 and be completed by June 9, 2017.
- Must provide 3 blog posts to be featured on our [Students Engaging in the Nature of Maine blog](#). Blog posts may be written by teacher and/or students. Specific calendar dates will be determined after grants are awarded. However, expect the following general calendar and content suggestion:
  - The first blog will be due by mid-February and should describe the project.
  - The second blog can focus on prep and/or progress of the project and will be due in mid-April.
  - The final blog will be due no later than June 9, 2017 and should describe the final outcome of the project.
- Must be available to the press and/or provide press statements and photos (with documented permissions for students) for media that highlight the project.\*
- Must give one final presentation about the project demonstrating what the students learned. NRCM staff, board, and/member will visit the school to see the presentation. Examples from last year include student oral presentations with supplemental materials such as photos, artwork, and a song performed by the students; field expeditions, and a poster session.

\*In addition to hosting project blog posts on the NRCM website, we will publicize the projects in our newsletter, e-newsletter, social media, and local newspapers. We will provide media release forms to be completed by teachers and/or students' parents/guardians.

#### Application Process:

- Complete and submit grant application by December 1, 2016
- Return to Gabrielle Grunkemeyer, Grants Director at [ggrunk@nrcm.org](mailto:ggrunk@nrcm.org)
- Applications will be evaluated by NRCM
- Grant awards announced January 9, 2017
- Grant checks dispersed by January 17, 2017



NRCM will evaluate your application on the following criteria:

- Align with NRCM's mission
- Relevance to one of our four program areas:
  - [Climate and Clean Energy](#)
  - [Healthy Waters](#)
  - [Forests and Wildlife](#)
  - [Sustainable Maine](#)
- Defined activities, goal(s), and implementation plan, if relevant

You may visit the NRCM [Students Engaging in the Nature of Maine blog](#) for examples of last year's projects. Below are other examples of project ideas (these are only examples; you may choose one or come up with your own):

1. Pick a State of Maine park, Land for Maine's Future property, or Public Reserved Land in Maine to learn about (ecology, history, geology, etc.) and explore – grant could pay for transportation and snacks/water/meal.
2. Start composting school organic waste and/or start a small school garden – grant could pay for buckets/composter/materials for garden.
3. Recycle/reuse classroom project – grant could pay for materials for planning and executing a recycling initiative for classroom, grade level, or school.
4. Field study project to better understand and/or improve a natural resource. For example, identify, evaluate, and measure the impact of an invasive species or grow and plant native species to increase habitat of threatened species – grant could pay for transportation to field site, plants, or other field materials/equipment.

**Grant awardees will be given a free one-year NRCM membership and added to our newsletter mailing list as well as emails related to grant topics.**



**Engaging Maine Middle School Students  
in *Protecting the Nature of Maine*  
Grant Application**

**Applicant Information:**

Name:

School (please include mailing address):

Job Title:

Grade(s)/Subject/Club:

Email Address:\*

Phone #:

\*This program relies heavily on email communications. Please indicate if you DO NOT have regular email access:

**Project Information:**

Project Title:

Project Description:

Project Goal(s):



# Natural Resources Council of Maine

Specific Activities:

Explanation of how project aligns with NRCM's mission and relevance to one of our program areas:

Project Budget (please provide total budget amount and include details of how grant funding will be used):

For questions, please contact Gabrielle Grunkemeyer, NRCM Grants Director at [ggrunk@nrcm.org](mailto:ggrunk@nrcm.org) or (207) 430-0124. This application does not guarantee funding, and awardees must sign a memorandum of understanding with NRCM.