

Funding support to help young people access Parks to learn

USA

Specific grant programs

- [**Every Kid Outdoors Transportation Grants Program**](#): This program, a partnership between the National Park Trust and the USDA Forest Service, provides grants of up to \$5,000 to schools and nonprofit organizations to cover the transportation and activity costs of connecting elementary school-aged youth with public lands.
- [**The North Face Explore Fund**](#): While not exclusive to parks, this fund has supported organizations that help get youth outdoors and into national parks, suggesting a potential source of funding for similar initiatives, notes [The Mountaineers](#).

Broader funding resources

- [**Children & Nature Network**](#): This organization provides resources and information on federal funding opportunities that can help connect children with nature, though the specific grants vary over time.
- [GrantWatch.com](#): This is a subscription-based service that lists thousands of available grants, including many for parks and recreation. Users can search for and upgrade to view the full details of grants related to youth and parks, according to [GrantWatch](#).

CANADA

Government-funded programs and initiatives

- **[Youth Employment and Skills Strategy \(YESS\)](#)**: Parks Canada's YESS program provides funding to organizations to help youth develop skills and overcome barriers to employment, often in areas related to conservation and natural resource management.
- **Environmental literacy and leadership**: Organizations like the BC Parks Foundation have received federal and provincial funding to develop environmental literacy programs for youth, which include learning opportunities in parks.
- **[Indigenous Guardians programs](#)**: The government is investing in Indigenous-led initiatives that support Indigenous Guardians, creating employment opportunities and protecting natural and cultural heritage.
- **National Urban Parks**: Parks Canada is creating a network of national urban parks and provides funding for projects that help ensure all Canadians have access to green space. Check for future funding opportunities related to this program.

Direct benefits for youth

- **Free admission**: Youth aged 17 and under receive free admission to all national parks, national historic sites, and national marine conservation areas managed by Parks Canada.
- **Reduced costs**: Other costs such as camping, guided tours, and special events may still apply and are not covered by free admission.
- **[Canada Strong Pass](#)**: Some initiatives, like the Canada Strong Pass, may offer discounted travel or admission to certain sites and may be available for youth to use.

Tips for finding and applying for funding

- **Stay informed**: Monitor official government websites for new funding announcements and program details.
- **Partner with organizations**: Work with organizations that receive government funding to participate in their youth programs.

- **Look for partnerships:** Keep an eye out for projects that involve collaborations between federal, provincial, and Indigenous governments and community organizations.
- **Consider private foundations:** Some foundations and non-profit organizations offer grants for youth-related projects.