

Target Field Trip Grants: Grant Writing Parties

Would you like to take your class on a nature based field trip but don't know where to find funding? Let the Sand Bluff Bird Observatory and Nature at the Confluence help you write a Target Field Trip grant! The Sand Bluff Bird Observatory Volunteers and the Nature at the Confluence Programming Director will be hosting grant writing parties for 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th grade teachers! Transportation is a costly part of taking a field trip and our thought is that classes could come to Sand Bluff Bird Observatory for a morning program then go to the Nature at the Confluence in South Beloit for an afternoon program. By visiting both locations, the classes would receive a full day of nature based, ecology and conservation education. We know writing grants can be difficult and if you've never written a grant, intimidating. We want to help teachers with the Target Field Trip grant application process.

As part of their corporate responsibility, The Target Corporate Stores have over 1,800 Field Trip Grants available for 2018. Each individual teacher can submit a grant for up to \$700 and funds may be used to cover transportation, admission fees, food, resource materials and supplies.

Target Field Trip Grant Information:

- Grant Due Date: 9/30 and applicants notified by email by 12/15, 2017
- How are Grants Selected?
 - Clearly identified Objectives and Direct Benefits to Students
 - Relevance to the Curriculum
 - Number of Students Benefitting

About Sand Bluff Bird Observatory:

The Sand Bluff Bird Observatory is a non-profit citizen science organization capturing, studying and releasing wild migratory birds at the Colored Sands Forest Preserve. The research has been conducted for more than 50 years and the knowledgeable volunteers enjoy sharing their experiences and information about birds, conservation and ecology with visitors. A typical program for school groups will include:

- A presentation about the avian research, ecology and specific bird species
- Seeing wild migratory birds
- Observing the collection of data about wild birds
- A short hike to observe the field research process



Sand Bluff Bird Observatory

About the Nature at the Confluence Learning Center:

The Nature at the Confluence Learning Center is located in South Beloit where the Turtle Creek joins the Rock River, 17 minutes from Sand Bluff Bird Observatory. The non-profit organization offers programs focusing on nature, ecology and local history and they have large indoor and outdoor classroom meeting spaces with bathrooms and sinks.



- Stream Team: Freshwater Biology Including Identification of Species and Importance of Healthy Streams
- Green Team: Pulling Invasive Species Weeds and Identifying Native Species
- Learning Gardens: The Pollinator Garden, The Centennial Heritage Garden, Sensory Garden and others
- Environmental Education Programs tailored to your needs

Goals of the Grant Writing Party

- Starting and possibly completing a Target Field Trip Grant application
- Support including brainstorming, help with phrasing, ideas about how our programming can help meet curriculum goals and state standards
- Networking and comradery (many of the Sand Bluff volunteers are or have been teachers)

What Participants Should Bring to the Party:

- Information about your school such as demographics and other helpful statistics
- Curriculum and state standard information
- Laptop or flash drive

If you would like more information or are interested in attending a grant writing party, please contact Megan Pease (peasemeganm@gmail.com; 608-354-2540) to reserve a spot.

When	Time	Where
Tuesday, 9/12	6-8 pm	Rockford Public Library 215 N. Wyman St., Rockford (Classroom C)
Saturday, 9/16	10 am -12pm	Nature at the Confluence 306 Dickop St., South Beloit, IL
Wednesday, 9/20	4:30-6:30 pm	Rockford Public Library 215 N. Wyman St., Rockford (Classroom C)
Saturday, 9/23	10 am – 12 pm	Nature at the Confluence 306 Dickop St., South Beloit, IL

Link to Target Field Trip Grants: <https://corporate.target.com/corporate-responsibility/grants/field-trip-grants>



Willowbrook Terra Servo Environmental Camp members in the Turtle Creek helping with a clean up event at the Nature at the Confluence



Lee Johnson from the Sand Bluff Bird Observatory explaining the importance of a Thrush to a visiting group