

DBQ County Conservation and Dubuque Community School District

WHEREAS, this Memorandum of Understanding, entered into between Dubuque County Conservation Board (DCCB) and the Dubuque Community School District (DCSD), outlines the elements of a partnership to successfully implement and sustain the Outdoor Adventures Science Program.

WHEREAS, Dubuque County Conservation is a form of county government with its own board, appointed by the County Supervisors. *The mission of the DCCB is to enhance the quality of life of our citizens by providing quality outdoor recreation facilities, environmental education and by promoting the long-term protection of Dubuque County's natural resources and heritage.*

WHEREAS, The Outdoor Adventures Program (See Exhibit #1) will provide an opportunity for all elementary students from Pre-K to 5th Grade, becoming a foundational element within the DCSD's core curriculum. This would provide the opportunity for all elementary students Pre-K- 5 to experience a quality outdoor educational experience.

WHEREAS, the five (5) primary performance goals of the Outdoor Adventure Program are as follows:

- (1) To expose and engage students and families to our park system, including underrepresented populations that may not be experiencing the benefit of our region's park system.
- (2) Supplement and strengthen science curriculum to align with the Next Generation Science Standards. Provide an outdoor education experience for all students within grades K – 5.
- (3) To develop a "classroom of stewards" and a deeper appreciation for the natural world.
- (4) Provide healthy leadership and team-building opportunities for students and their teachers outside of the classroom.
- (5) Share the responsibility of environmental stewardship.

WHEREAS, The DCSD and DCCB are committed to providing a world-class multi-year program maintained throughout the existence of the Outdoor Adventures partnership.

WHEREAS, the responsibilities of DCCB include:

1. Provide oversight to the implementation, operation, and continuous improvement of the Outdoor Adventure program with the DCSD.
2. Employ a full-time mutually acceptable, qualified individual with requested certification, to fulfill the responsibilities of the Outdoor Adventures program. The individual will collaborate with the DCSD and each individual school to schedule Outdoor Adventure programs.
3. Periodically review and update the curriculum.
4. Develop a positive working relationship with all elementary schools.
5. Provide communication with schools and classroom teachers for collaboration and delivery of program components.
6. Throughout the term of the Memorandum of Understanding, the DCCB will maintain minimum insurance coverages as required in Exhibit #2.

7. DCCB will defend, indemnify and hold harmless the DCSD, its board members, employees, staff, students, agents and representative from and against any and all expense (including without limitation, attorneys' fees and expenses), claims, demands, liability and causes of action, regardless of the filing of suit, resulting or alleged to result from the negligence or omission of DCCB, its officers, agents, or employees. Regardless of fault, DCCB will indemnify DCSD and its officers, directors, employees, agents, and representatives against all claims and demands by DCCB employees or their spouses or dependents for damages or expense resulting from injury or death arising out of or in the course of employment by DCCB.

DCSD will indemnify and hold DCCB, its board members, employees and staff members harmless from and against all claims, liability, and causes of action, regardless of the filing of suit, resulting or alleged to result from the negligence or omission of the DCSD, its officers, agents or employees.

WHEREAS, the responsibilities of the DCSD include:

1. Collaborate with the DBQ County Conservation Naturalist and each individual school to schedule Outdoor Adventure programs.
2. The district will reserve DCSD buses for scheduled Outdoor Adventures programs.
3. Provide classroom teachers and volunteers for a desired 12:1 ratio, who will be actively involved in the delivery of program instruction and management of students.
4. Annually review the program lesson plan and student outcomes resulting in continuous program improvement.
5. Support the naturalists in curriculum as needed, while working towards teachers leading some of the programs.

WHEREAS, the responsibilities of the Dubuque County Conservation Naturalist

1. The DBQ County Conservation Naturalist is an employee of DCCB. Their primary role is to deliver the Outdoor Adventure program with fidelity.
2. Deliver the curriculum developed in collaboration by DCCB and DCSD, which is written based on NGSS science standards.
3. Organize the daily operations of the program, collaborate to schedule with each elementary school, and lead the program.
4. Provide guidance around being a good steward in the outdoor world.
5. Provide leadership and team building opportunities for students and teachers.
6. Develop an annual report on programs to determine impact and any changes needed, and share with the public.

WHEREAS, the DCSD will provide yearly payment to the DCCB towards employment of Dubuque County Conservation Naturalist in the amount of approximately \$30,000.00 (50% of salary and benefits).

PARTNERSHIP COMMITMENT

This Memorandum of Understanding begins July 1, 2021 and runs through June 30, 2026.

The partners mutually agree that the DBQ County Conservation Outdoor Adventure Program will operate within the principles, policies, procedures as outlined in this document and agreed to by the DCCB, DCSD and DBQ County Conservation Naturalist.

It is a mutually agreed that efforts will be made to continue the Outdoor Adventure program in the school the next school year based on the availability of funding and mutual satisfaction with the program based on this Memorandum of Understanding.

Should areas of non-compliance with the Outdoor Adventures Program model arise, and all efforts to reach agreement have failed, either party reserves the right to terminate this contract with 60 days written notice.

In agreement with the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding, the partners affix their signatures in the spaces provided.

Brian Preston
Executive Director of Dubuque County Conservation

Date

Tamara L. Ryan, President, Board of Education
Dubuque Community School District

Date