

MEMORANDUM

To: All District and School-Level Administrators and Teachers
From: Dr. Marcia Oglesby, Director, Grants & Partnerships
Through: Mrs. Jennifer Caracciolo, Interim Chief DCEIP
Date: December 5, 2025
Subject: *Funding Focus Friday: Kick Off America's 250th - Kids to Parks Day Field Trip*

The National Park Trust has announced the 16th annual *Kids to Parks Day School Grants Program* in celebration of Kids to Parks Day on Saturday, May 16, 2026, and our nation's upcoming 250th birthday in 2026. This is a terrific opportunity for DeKalb's Title I schools to design student-driven, standards-aligned field experiences in partnership with our remarkable national parks and historic sites.

Grant Highlights:

- Who can apply: PreK–12 classrooms from Title I schools (40%+ of students eligible for free/reduced-price lunch).
- Funding amount: Up to \$1,000 per classroom for in-park experiences (transportation, program fees, stewardship supplies, and instructional materials).
- Student voice required: Proposals must be student–teacher collaborations; students should help shape the park choice, learning goals, and stewardship activity.
- Each awarded class will receive up to \$1,000, an official Kids to Parks Day certificate, and a Buddy Bison plush mascot for students to take on their adventure.
- Full program details are available [HERE](#).
- The application link is [HERE](#). **Deadline to apply is January 30, 2026.**

So many fantastic options! Just a few nearby National Park Service sites within 2.5 hours that can inspire projects on America 250 themes of democracy, stewardship, and shared history include:

- [Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park](#) (Atlanta)
 - Experience: Students walk Auburn Avenue, visit Dr. King's birth home and Ebenezer Baptist Church, and explore exhibits on the Civil Rights Movement.
 - America 250 connection: Learners compare the ideals in the Declaration of Independence with Dr. King's vision of the "*Beloved Community*," then create mini digital exhibits or spoken word pieces on how the promise of 1776 has expanded, but not yet been fully realized, by 2026.
- [Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park](#) (Marietta)
 - Experience: Students hike preserved Civil War battlefields, study interpretive maps and earthworks, and analyze primary sources from [The Atlanta Campaign](#).
 - America 250 connection: Classes explore the Civil War as a "second founding," focusing on how conflicts over liberty reshaped the Constitution and our understanding of the union. Projects may include trail maintenance, removing invasive plants, or creating audio stops that highlight different viewpoints.
- [Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park](#) (Macon)
 - Experience: Students explore 12,000 years of Indigenous history through earthen mounds, an earth lodge, and archaeological exhibits, connecting math, science, and social studies.

- America 250 connection: Classes consider how the story of America begins long before 1776 and design “Many Nations, One Land” projects such as 3D mound models, GIS story maps, or children’s books that elevate Native voices in our nation’s 250th narrative.
- **Andersonville National Historic Site & National Prisoner of War Museum** (Andersonville)
 - Experience: Students visit the historic Civil War prison site, the National Cemetery, and the National Prisoner of War Museum, which shares POW stories from the Revolutionary War to the present.
 - America 250 connection: Learners examine how our nation’s treatment of prisoners reflects evolving ideas about human rights and the laws of war. Possible culminating tasks include student-curated “Voices of Service and Sacrifice” exhibits or letters of thanks to current service members and veterans.
- **Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site** (Tuskegee, AL)
 - Experience: At Moton Field, students encounter hangars, aircraft, and interpretive exhibits about the first Black military aviators and their fight for the right to serve in World War II.
 - America 250 connection: Classes connect the Airmen’s story to ongoing struggles for equal opportunity, then design STEM and civics-infused projects such as flight simulations, engineering challenges, or oral histories that highlight how expanding “We the People” strengthens the nation at 250 years.

Title I schools are encouraged to identify at least one grade-level or content team that will co-design an application with students. These experiences can become powerful anchor experiences for spring units in ELA, social studies, science, PE/health, and CTAE.

Remember to follow the [DCSD Grant Guidelines](#) and work with [Grants & Partnerships](#) to coordinate the next steps. We are here to support you in shaping your ideas and strengthening your submissions. To begin your application, have questions answered, or get experienced advice, email us at grantsandpartnerships@dekalbschoolsga.org.

[Dr. Marcia Oglesby](#), *Director*
[Dr. Donald Porter](#), *Lead Grant Strategist*
[Ms. Tanya Arrington](#), *Strategic Partners Manager*

[Mrs. Libritta Anderson Griffin](#), *Coordinator II*
[Ms. Demetric Crittle](#), *Coordinator*
[Ms. Winona Maolud](#), *Administrative Assistant*

Need more grant inspiration and options? The complete, searchable Monthly Education Grants Alert (MEGA) for December 2025 is now available [HERE](#).

Good luck!