



## **“Rita’s Ride to McConnell Springs”**

### **Friends of McConnell Springs Transportation for Education Grant**

In honor of their long-time board Chairman, Rita Keys, the Friends of McConnell Springs have created a grant opportunity for Kentucky school children. Rita was a tireless supporter of McConnell Springs and the educational programs the park provides for school groups. She wanted all school children to have the opportunity to visit McConnell Springs to learn about local history and the environment.

The Friends of McConnell Springs is an independent not-for-profit 501 (c)(3) organization that works in partnership with the Lexington Fayette Urban County Government Division of Parks and Recreation. The Friends of McConnell Springs is dedicated to the restoration and preservation of McConnell Springs as:

- a national historic site, recognized as the pioneer encampment in the naming of Lexington, Kentucky;
- an environmental and educational resource; and
- a passive recreation park.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Rita’s Ride to McConnell Springs grant is to provide funding for transportation costs associated with a field experience at McConnell Springs.

#### **Goal**

The goal of the grant is to increase student access to quality hands-on environmental education programs and experiences in nature.

#### **Who May Apply**

Any School grades K – 12 may apply.

#### **Program Description**

This grant program enables teachers to provide their students with access to hands-on environmental education programs by providing transportation funding. The grant will cover the cost of bus transportation to and from McConnell Springs up to \$400.00 per school during the fall or spring season. There is no program fee at McConnell Springs. This is open to all Kentucky schools.

## How to Apply

- Complete the application, scan, and submit as an attachment to email to Steven Rogers at [srogers@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:srogers@lexingtonky.gov), later than **September 30th**.
- To select a program to best meet the needs of students, review the “Educational Opportunities at McConnell Springs” found on our web page [www.mcconnellsprings.org](http://www.mcconnellsprings.org). You may also contact the McConnell Springs’ naturalist, Steven Rogers at [srogers@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:srogers@lexingtonky.gov), to discuss program selection and/or questions regarding your choice of educational programs.
- The Friends of McConnell Springs Board will review the applications to select a school for the funding period. The successful school will be notified by the Friends of McConnell Springs.
- The transportation invoice would normally be sent to the school bookkeeper for payment. Please send a copy of the transportation invoice via e-mail to: [friends@mcconnellsprings.gov](mailto:friends@mcconnellsprings.gov). We will mail the check as indicated on the invoice and will send an informational copy to the school.
- The Friends of McConnell Springs will mail a check to the school for the cost of the bus transportation up to \$400.00.

## Schools Must

1. Review subject material (i.e., Habitats) with students prior to the field trip to McConnell Springs.
2. View the Story of McConnell Springs DVD the school library has for loan. (If your school does not have the DVD please contact the naturalist at McConnell Springs for a mailed copy.)
3. Assess the impact of the field trip on the students with a post-review in class following the visit to the park.
4. Complete program evaluation forms either at the conclusion of the program or return by mail.





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Transportation for Education Grant

School name	
Mailing address	
zip code	
School phone	
Principal	
Principal's email address	
School website	
Contact teacher	
Contact teacher's email address	
Grade level	
Number of students	
Number of teachers	
Selected educational program	
Proposed date for field experience	

