



BILLINGS FARM & MUSEUM

Billings Farm & Museum Scholarship Fund

Eligibility Information for Spring 2026 Field Trips

The **Billings Farm & Museum Scholarship Fund** makes funding available to eligible schools and youth serving organizations as follows:

- **Field Trip Scholarship:** Total field trip funding for students (\$9 per student); chaperones attend at no cost.
- **Partial Field Trip Scholarship:** Reduced field trip funding for students (from \$9 per student to \$4); chaperones attend at no cost.
- **Transportation Scholarship:** Funding to cover the cost of school bus/van transportation.

Scholarships decisions are made on a rolling basis, and scholarship funds are limited. We encourage schools to review the eligibility criteria below and **complete our on-line scholarship application form no later than March 15th. Applications received after March 15th will be considered only if there is available scholarship funding.**

Eligibility Requirements

Scholarship decisions are based information provided in the application, a **holistic review of demonstrated need**, and our desire to expand access to field trips to new, eligible schools and continue to partner our current school partners.

Field Trip Scholarship Eligibility

Schools demonstrating **high levels of economic need and limited access to enrichment** qualify for full field trip funding.

Indicators:

- The school is designated as a Title I school.
- 40% or more students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch.
- Enrichment programs (art, music, theater, physical education, or library services) have been reduced or eliminated due to budget constraints.

- 15% or more of the local town, city, or county population lives below the federal poverty line.
- A significant portion of students face barriers to participation, such as housing instability, food insecurity, or limited access to community-based enrichment outside of school.
- Extracurricular opportunities (sports, STEM clubs, theater, or academic clubs) have been cut or significantly reduced due to budget limitations, staffing shortages, or lack of transportation.
- Before- and after-school programming has been reduced or eliminated due to funding or staffing constraints.
- Field trip funding has been cut, reduced, capped, or shifted entirely to parent fundraising.
- Due to limited staffing or funding, only certain grade levels are able to participate in off-campus learning experiences.
- The school experiences chronic understaffing, including limited access to:
 - Academic interventionists (literacy or math)
 - Special education teachers
 - Social-emotional, behavioral, or mental health support staff
 - One-on-one aides or paraprofessionals
- The school serves a rural, geographically isolated, or transportation-limited community, making access to enrichment opportunities more difficult.

Partial Field Trip Scholarship

Schools demonstrating **moderate financial constraints** and **reduced access to enrichment** may qualify for partial field trip funding.

Indicators:

- 25% or more students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch.
- Enrichment programs (art, music, library, or similar) have been reduced due to budget constraints.
- 10% or more of the local town, city, or county population live below the federal poverty line.
- Extracurricular activities (sports, STEM, theater, or clubs) have been reduced or eliminated due to budget, staffing, or transportation challenges.
- Before- and after-school programming has been reduced or eliminated.
- Field trip budgets have been reduced or partially replaced by parent fundraising.
- Due to funding or staffing limitations, field trips are restricted to select grade levels.
- The school has limited access to:
 - Academic intervention services
 - Special education or behavioral support staff
 - Paraprofessional or one-on-one support

Transportation Scholarship

Schools where **transportation costs are the primary barrier** to participation may qualify for a transportation funding.

Indicators:

- Transportation or busing costs are the primary reason field trips or enrichment activities have been reduced or eliminated.
- Extracurricular programs (sports, STEM, theater, or clubs) have been cut or limited due to transportation constraints.

- The school serves a rural or geographically dispersed district with long travel distances.
- Field trips are otherwise feasible but cannot occur without transportation assistance.
- Visiting class size exceeds the site capacity of 55 students, requiring the school to split the field trip over two days and secure additional bussing.