

## **2024 Invitation for Libraries to Submit Proposals for “Learning About and Appreciating Nature and the Environment”**

**Release Date:** January 31, 2024

**Proposal Due Date:** March 1, 2024

**Point of Contact:** Carla Barrett, Program Chair, [barrettinclinton@gmail.com](mailto:barrettinclinton@gmail.com)

Mid-Hudson Chapter, Adirondack Mountain Club (MHADK)

### **Purpose:**

To provide opportunities for families and children of all ages to participate in, appreciate, and learn about the joys and benefits of the natural world including creatures, plants, and recreational opportunities. Proposals should be consistent with and in support of the Adirondack Mountain Club’s (ADK’s) mission:

### **Mission Statement:**

“ADK works to protect New York’s wild lands and waters by promoting responsible outdoor recreation and building a statewide constituency of land stewardship advocates.

### **About Us**

Based out of Adirondack Park in New York State, ADK is a leader in providing outdoor education, promoting responsible recreation, and organizing stewardship experiences. Since 1922, the organization has worked to increase access to the backcountry by building trails, conserving natural areas, and developing a stewardship community that supports the ethical and safe use of New York’s outdoor spaces. A member, donor, and volunteer-supported organization, ADK reaches across New York through its twenty-seven chapters to inspire people to enjoy the outdoors ethically.”

### **Funding Source:**

Funding will be provided by the Mid-Hudson Chapter of ADK (MHADK). MHADK may amend this opportunity at any time and reserves the right to make no donations. The funding amount is anticipated to be about \$600 per Library depending on what is proposed. In the past, funding amounts have varied from \$300 to \$700 although such amounts are rare. It is estimated that about 9 proposals will be funded this year.

### **Possible Approaches:**

Ideas for projects are endless but could include a myriad of approaches to learn about and/or be involved with nature and the outdoors including but not limited to flowers, birds, mammals, reptiles, plants, geology, weather, conservation, invasive species and outdoor recreation. Funding may cover many aspects of a program including but not limited to books, teachers, guides, equipment, and outings.

Special consideration will be given to proposals that include other funding support such as monetary contributions or material or labor donations from partners including local nature preserves, civic organizations, businesses, individuals, and others. In-kind contributions are encouraged but not mandatory. Contributions may include personnel such as guides and educators, other labor, equipment, books, transportation, etc.

**NOTE: Payment of large fees (exceeding \$50) to individuals for leading walks, hikes, classes, etc, will not be funded. It has been our experience that attendance for such events is frequently poor and the funding is therefore not used beneficially or judiciously. There are many knowledgeable individuals in the Hudson Valley who will volunteer their time to libraries for the purpose of learning about nature. Local preserves, parks and research institutes are a good place to inquire. Even library patrons may have such skills.**

**Format:**

Proposals should be *one to two pages* long and in letter form, or a form created by the proposer or another source. Proposals should include:

**Organization Name:**

**Address: (Location and mailing)**

**Contact Name:**

**Contact Phone:**

**Contact Email:**

**Program/Project Title:**

**Description of the program/project:**

**Schedule:**

**Budget with details:**

**Final Report:**

A brief final report will be required that does not exceed three pages. The report should include: number of participants in adult and child categories, name of leader(s) of project, dates, duration, activities, results, and amount spent. We would appreciate an interim report, if the project is not completed by the end of CY 2024.

**Due Date:**

Proposals are due no later than the due date specified above. Proposals received after that date will not be considered. We expect to notify those submitting proposals by mid-April if they will be funded. Checks will be mailed out shortly after.

**Publicity and Acknowledgements:**

Program participants should be informed that the project is sponsored by funding from the Mid- Hudson Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club (MHADK). The same is true of communiques to patrons, verbal or written, and in newsletters, reports to the Library Board, publicity, etc.

Labels are to be applied to books and other purchased material indicating they were purchased with funding provided by The Mid-Hudson Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club. Informational brochures will be provided for display at the Library, and for distribution as appropriate. These will be mailed or hand-carried to the Library by members of MHADK.

**Submission:**

Proposals and questions should be submitted to:

Carla Barrett, Program Chair, ADK Mid-Hudson Chapter, at [barrettinclinton@gmail.com](mailto:barrettinclinton@gmail.com)