

Peak District National Park Connect Fund: Funding information for schools

Are you a school, charity or community group planning a trip to the Peak District National Park? We may be able to help.

We offer grants of up to £500 to remove barriers for disadvantaged and marginalised communities to access, understand, and enjoy the Park.

Before applying, please check that:

- The destination for your trip is within the National Park boundary
- You have sent us an evaluation form for any grants you've previously received from the Foundation
- You have waited at least a year since your last Connect Fund grant
- The Peak District is your closest national park

Your trip will need to focus on at least one of the following things:

- Helping people learn about the Peak District National Park (this could include learning about nature, the landscape or history and heritage of the Peak District)
- Helping people build the skills and confidence to spend time in the National Park, and the countryside more generally
- Showing people the benefits of noticing and connecting with nature

We would welcome your application for a Connect Fund grant. We're thrilled to be able to support schools to spend time in nature, learn about how to care for the outdoors and experience the benefits of time in the Peak District.

Please read the following information carefully before beginning your application.

To be eligible for a grant:

- You must be a state-funded school where 30% or more pupils are eligible for free school meals. We use the '[get information about schools](#)' service to get this data.
- Your trip must have a focus on helping pupils to learn about, connect with or enjoy the national park. This may be through history and heritage, nature and the climate or with a focus on health and wellbeing. We don't fund trips to tourist attractions or days out solely to villages or towns in the Peak District such as Bakewell.
- You must spend the grant within 6 months of receiving it

Please note:

- We don't fund any ongoing organisational expenses such as staff wages, vehicle maintenance or insurance.
- We cover food costs at a maximum of £6 per person

How to use your Connect Fund grant:

Connect Fund grants can be spent on anything required to make your trip happen, as long as these costs are essential and for the benefit of the young people taking part.

This might be:

- Transport costs, such as coach hire, fuel costs, bus or train fares
- Learning provider fees, such as a walking guide, an expert on heritage to teach pupils about a particular monument or area of the Park, or a farmer to talk about life on the farm and sustainable farming practices
- Equipment needed for your activity such as maps or a first aid kit (please note, it is unlikely that we will fund equipment that serves a longer-term purpose for your organisation, such as clipboards, pens, compasses etc.)

Wherever possible, please make sustainable choices when planning your transport and activity. If you have any questions about how to use a potential grant, please feel free to [get in touch](#) before submitting your application.

How to apply:

If you think you are eligible for a Connect Fund grant, and plan to spend it as outlined above, we'd love to hear from you.

- Make sure you answer every question with the detail it asks for and only submit your application when you have planned your activity in full.
- Please ensure you include a full budget breakdown with details of your planned spending, and quotes wherever possible. If you apply without submitting a quote, you must make sure you have an accurate idea of how much your activity will cost, with evidence of your workings. We cannot amend a grant once it is designated.
- When you are ready to apply, please fill in the application form and return it to hello@peakdistrictfoundation.org.uk. We aim to be in touch with the outcome of your application within two weeks of the closing date.
- The upcoming deadlines for this financial year are 16th October 2026 and 19th February 2027.

For groups looking to spend time at Chatsworth House or Thornbridge Hall, we would expect you to apply for funding from these organisations before submitting a Connect Fund application.

For the Chatsworth House application form, please click [here](#).

For the Thornbridge Hall application form, please click [here](#).

If you are unsuccessful, you are welcome to apply to the Connect Fund – please let us know at the application stage. If you'd like to discuss your application at any stage, or to check your eligibility before you begin the process, get in touch at hello@peakdistrictfoundation.org.uk or by calling 01629 700 606.

Please note, we receive far more applications than we can fund so even if your project is eligible, you are not guaranteed to receive a grant. In the last year we awarded grants in around 60% of cases.