



## Friends of Old Woman Creek

To: School Administrator

Subject: Transportation Assistance Grant Program

The Friends of Old Woman Creek, a 501c3 non-profit organization, has established a Transportation Assistance Grant Program to support environmental education field trips to Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR). Field trip programs at OWC NERR emphasize hands-on scientific learning. Participants may use seine and plankton nets, microscopes and water quality testing equipment to increase their understanding of freshwater ecology and foster stewardship of coastal wetlands and Lake Erie.

Each grant will help defray the transportation costs associated with half or one-day field trips for at least one classroom up to 40 students. Eligible applicants are Erie and Huron County school groups during the regular school year. Grants in the amount of up to \$150 per school are offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Although 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms are the target for this grant program, grants may be awarded to other grade levels at the discretion of the Old Woman Creek NERR education staff.

Grant applications should be submitted after scheduling a program date with the Reserve's Education Coordinator, Jennifer Bucheit. Enclosed is a copy of the Transportation Assistance Grant Program application. The application must be filled out completely and approved by the school administrator.

The Friends of OWC is aware that with significant funding reductions, schools in our local community are having a difficult time providing 'extras' for their students. Field trips are often among the first items to be discontinued. We are pleased to offer this grant program that may encourage more teachers and students to explore our unique aquatic environments, interact with scientists, and take home important environmental conservation messages and skills.

For further information regarding the grant application or field trips to OWC NERR, please contact:

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