

Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant Application



Instructions

After completing the form, applications and supporting documentation may be submitted by e-mail to ndicgrants@nd.gov. It is preferred that only electronic copies are submitted.

You are not limited to the spacing provided, except in those instances where there is a limit on the number of words. If you need additional space, please indicate that on the application form, answer the question on a separate page, and include with your submission.

The application and all attachments must be received by the application deadline. You may submit your application at any time prior to the application deadline. **Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit applications prior to the deadline for staff review in order ensure that proposals will be complete when submitted on deadline date.** Incomplete applications may not be considered for funding.

Please review the back of this form to determine project eligibility, definitions, budget criteria, and statutory requirements.

Project Name **Parent-Child Pheasant Hunting Retreat for Army SF Veterans**

Name of Organization **Cross the Divide**

Federal Tax ID# **30-0745582**

Contact Person/Title **Mike Kraemer, North Dakota Program Coordinator**

Address **1240 North Parkview Drive**

City **Bismark**

State **North Dakota**

Zip Code **58501**

E-mail Address **,mkraemersg@gmail.com**

Web Site Address (If applicable) **www.crossthedivide.us/mike-kraemer**

Phone **701-210-2054**

List names of co-applicants if this is a joint proposal

2nd POC: Emile Moured, Executive Director for Cross the Divide; mo@crossthedivide.us

MAJOR Directive:

Choose only one response

- Directive A.** Providing access to private and public lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and provide access for sportsmen;
- Directive B.** Improving, maintaining and restoring water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems and by supporting other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching;
- Directive C.** Developing, enhancing, conserving and restoring wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; and
- Directive D.** Conserving natural areas and creating other areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and other recreation areas.

Additional Directive:

Choose all that apply

- Directive A.**
- Directive B.**
- Directive C.**
- Directive D.**

Type of organization:

- State Agency
- Political Subdivision
- Tribal Entity
- Tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation.

Abstract/Executive Summary.

Summarize the project, including its objectives, expected results, duration, total project costs and participants. (no more than 500 words)

Cross the Divide will host a Parent-Child Pheasant Hunting Retreat in November 2025, led by North Dakota Program Coordinator Mike Kraemer. The retreat will serve 4–5 veteran-child pairs (8–10 participants total) on private lands near Regent, ND, including veteran-owned and donated properties. The event includes transportation to/from Bismarck Airport, pheasant hunts, lodging, meals, travel, and equipment at no cost to participants. Veterans, primarily from the Army Special Forces community, will benefit from healing discussions and camaraderie in nature.

During the evenings, Mike also leads discussions with our veterans that has had a

remarkable effect on bringing healing and hope, with a tangible impact on their well-being. A veteran of Mike's 2024 trip said, "I have become more 'reclusive' and was dreading agreeing to come. But my wife pushed me and I'm glad I did. THANK YOU for what all you have done!" Another participant said that he had not gone hunting since losing a family member to suicide after a hunting trip years ago, but this trip helped him overcome his fear of "getting back out there" and enjoying these types of activities with his son, himself a retired Marine Corps First Sergeant.

The retreat aims to provide therapeutic outdoor experiences, foster community, and showcase North Dakota's natural beauty. Air travel costs for participants already covered by an Army SF veteran nonprofit, Vigilant Torch, and an additional \$1,500 already donated from RMEF ND.

Project Duration: 4 days, 21-24 November 2025

Indicate the intended schedule for drawing down OHF funds.

Amount of Grant request: \$ 3,680

Total Project Costs: \$10,680 (+\$7,500 estimated in-kind donation for land use/access)

Note: in-kind and indirect costs can be used for matching funds.

Amount of Matching Funds: \$

A minimum of 25% Match Funding is required. Indicate if the matching funds will be in-kind, indirect or cash. Please provide verification that these matching funds are available for your project. Note that effective as of July 1, 2015 no State General Fund dollars can be used for a match unless funding was legislatively appropriated for that purpose.

Amount of Match	Funding Source	Type of Match (Cash, In-kind or Indirect)
\$5,500	Vigilant Torch	Cash (reimbursement for air travel)
\$1,500	RMEF North Dakota	Cash (expenses/fees)
\$ 7,500 (est)	Private Land Owners	In-Kind (use of land)
\$		
\$		
\$		

Certifications

☒ I certify that this application has been made with the support of the governing body and chief executive of my organization.

☒ I certify that if awarded grant funding none of the funding will be used for any of the exemptions noted in the back of this application.

Narrative

Organization Information – Briefly summarize your organization’s history, mission, current programs and activities.

Include an overview of your organizational structure, including board, staff and volunteer involvement. (no more than 300 words)

Cross the Divide is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving veterans through outdoor experiences and community engagement. Our mission is to provide healing, hope, and connection for veterans and their families. We operate programs nationwide, with a growing presence in North Dakota. We are governed by a board of eight veterans to include a retired Admiral who is our current Board President, a Navy SEAL of 30 years, a retired Marine 1st Sergeant, and members from the US Army and Air Force. These board members provide us a variety of experiences and a breadth of veteran leadership to accomplish our mission. Our team includes experienced contracted facilitators/guides and volunteers. While we have no salaried staff, our contracted and volunteer facilitators are uniquely equipped to not only give our participants a great experience in the field or on the water, but to mentor them and engage individuals and groups in meaningful conversation.

For the last two years, we have had hunting trips led by program coordinator Mike Kraemer with great success and even greater impact on the veterans who attend. Roughly 1 in 3 veterans will report feeling depressed today. On average, according to the VA, more than 17 veterans take their own lives each day. Many are feeling a sense of hopelessness, disconnectedness, guilt, and a loss of energy or passion for life. As one veteran said after his hunt with Cross The Divide, "I feel alive for the first time in 14 years." According to our post-event surveys, participants of 2024 CTD events reported a 43% increase in Confidence, a 62% increase in Connection, a 58% increase in Trust, a 52% increase in Morale and a 48% increase in Hope.

Purpose of Grant – Describe the proposed project identifying how the project will meet the specific directive(s) of the Outdoor Heritage Fund Program

This grant will support a pheasant hunting retreat for veterans and their children, promoting access to private lands and fostering healing through nature. The project aligns with Directive A by providing sportsmen access and creating meaningful outdoor experiences. It is a new initiative building on a successful 2024 prototype. The retreat includes guided hunts,

discussions, and community-building activities. The urgency stems from the mental health crisis among veterans, and the project offers a proven method of support and engagement.

Management of Project – Provide a description of how you will manage and oversee the project to ensure it is carried out on schedule and in a manner that best ensures its objectives will be met.

Mike Kraemer, a seasoned facilitator, pastor, hunter and veteran advocate, will oversee all tactical aspects of the retreat, including logistics and safety. His background includes organizing successful veteran hunts and leading therapeutic discussions, and he has already developed a network of land owners who provide access and volunteer guides who assist with hunts.

Evaluation – Describe your plan to document progress and results.

Success will be measured through participant surveys that gauge the five factors mentioned above (confidence, connection, trust, morale, hope), as well as testimonials and follow-up engagement. Metrics include emotional well-being, sense of connection, and willingness to participate in future events.

Financial Information

Project Budget – Use the table below to provide an itemized list of project expenses and describe the matching funds being utilized for this project.

Indicate if the matching funds are in the form of cash, indirect costs or in-kind services. The budget should identify all other committed funding sources and the amount of funding from each source. **A minimum of 25% match funding is required.** An application will be scored higher the greater the amount of match funding provided. (See Scoring Form.)

Certain values have been identified for in-kind services as detailed under “Budget Information” at the back of this form. Refer to that section and utilize these values in identifying your matching funds.

NOTE: No indirect costs will be funded. Supporting documentation for project expenses, including bids, must be included or application will be considered incomplete.

Project Expense	OHF Request	Applicant's Match Share (Cash)	Applicant's Match Share (In-Kind)	Applicant's Match Share (Indirect)	Other Project Sponsor's Share	Total Each Project Expense
Lodging/Food	\$ 2,630	\$	\$	\$	\$ 620	\$ 3,250
Local Travel	\$ 250	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 250
Hunting Licenses	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 450	\$ 450
Ammo	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 430	\$ 430
Facilitator/Guide	\$ 800	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 800
Travel	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500
Total Costs	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 10,680

Budget Narrative – Use the space below to provide additional detail regarding project expenses.

All costs are based on actual estimates and past event data. Travel expenses are covered by a donor and will serve as matching funds. Lodging and food are essential for multi-day retreats. Facilitator costs cover planning and execution. Volunteer help and donated land access further strengthen the match.

\$7,500* "In-Kind" donation estimate for land access not included
 (*300 acres at Rate: \$25/acre/year; Total in-kind value: 300×25=\$7,500)

Sustainability – Indicate how the project will be funded or sustained in future years.

Future retreats will be funded through donor support and expanded partnerships with landowners and veteran organizations. We aim to build a network of guides and hosts to ensure long-term viability.

Partial Funding – Indicate how the project will be affected if less funding is available than that requested.

If partial funding is awarded, we will scale the retreat to accommodate fewer participants or reduce the duration while maintaining core program elements

Partnership Recognition - If you are a successful recipient of Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars, how would you recognize the Outdoor Heritage Fund partnership? * There must be signage at the location of the project acknowledging OHF funding when appropriate.

We will prominently display OHF signage at the retreat location and acknowledge OHF support in all promotional materials, website, social media, and post-event communications.

Awarding of Grants - Review the appropriate sample contract for your organization on the website at <http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm>.

Can you meet all the provisions of the sample contract? Yes No

If there are provisions in that contract that your organization is unable to meet, please indicate below what those provisions would be:



Pictures from 2023 and 2024 veteran hunting retreats with Mike Kraemer / Cross The Divide in North Dakota.

ABOUT OHF:

The purpose of the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund is to provide funding to state agencies, tribal governments, political subdivisions, and nonprofit organizations, with higher priority given to projects that enhance **conservation** practices in this state by:

Directive A. Providing access to private and public lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and provide access for sportsmen;

Directive B. Improving, maintaining and restoring water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems and by supporting other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching;

Directive C. Developing, enhancing, conserving and restoring wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; and

Directive D. Conserving natural areas and creating other areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and other recreation areas.

EXEMPTIONS

Outdoor Heritage Fund grants may not be used to finance the following:

- Litigation;
- Lobbying activities;
- Any activity that would interfere, disrupt, or prevent activities associated with surface coal mining operations; sand, gravel, or scoria extraction activities; oil and gas operations; or other energy facility or infrastructure development;
- The acquisition of land or to encumber any land for a term longer than twenty years; or
- Projects outside this state or projects that are beyond the scope of defined activities that fulfill the purposes of Chapter 54-17.8 of the North Dakota Century Code.

OHF funds may not be used, except after a finding of exceptional circumstances by the Industrial Commission, to finance:

- A completed project or project commenced before the grant application is submitted;
- A feasibility or research study;
- Maintenance costs;
- A paving project for a road or parking lot;
- A swimming pool or aquatic park;
- Personal property that is not affixed to the land;
- Playground equipment, except that grant funds may be provided for up to 25% of the cost of the equipment not exceeding \$10,000 per project and all playground equipment grants may not exceed 5% of the total grants per year (see Definitions/Clarifications for how this will be calculated);
- Staffing or outside consultants except for costs for staffing or an outside consultant to design and implement an approved project based on the documented need of the applicant and the expenditures may not exceed 5% of the grant to a grantee if the grant exceeds \$250,000 and expenditures may not exceed 10% of the grant to a grantee if the grant is \$250,000 or less (see Definitions/Clarifications for how this will be calculated);
- A building except for a building that is included as part of a comprehensive conservation plan for a new or expanded recreational project (see Definitions/Clarifications for definition of comprehensive conservation plan and new or expanded recreational project); or
- A project in which the applicant is not directly involved in the execution and completion of the project.

The goal of the Industrial Commission is that at a minimum 15% of the funding received for a biennium will be given priority for recreation projects that meet Directive D.

The following projects are not eligible for funding, unless there is a finding of exceptional circumstances by the Industrial Commission include:

- Construction or refurbishment of indoor/outdoor ice rinks,
- Construction or refurbishment of indoor/outdoor athletic courts and sports fields,
- Other substantially similar facilities.

- Infrastructure that is not part of a comprehensive conservation plan.
- Projects not meeting a minimum funding request of \$2,500.

Budget Information

In-kind services used to match the request for Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars shall be valued as follows:

- Labor costs \$15.00 an hour
- Land costs Average rent costs for the county as shown in the most recent publication of the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Services, North Dakota Field Office
- Permanent Equipment Any equipment purchased must be listed separately with documentation showing actual cost. (For example: playground equipment)
- Equipment usage Actual documentation
- Seed & Seedlings Actual documentation
- Transportation Mileage at federal rate
- Supplies & materials Actual documentation

More categories will be added as we better understand the types of applications that will be submitted. We will use as our basis for these standards other State and Federal programs that have established rates. For example, the North Dakota Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program has established rates. If your project includes work that has an established rate under another State Program, please use those rates and note your source.

Definitions/Clarifications:

Building - Defined as "A structure with a roof either with walls or without walls and is attached to the ground in a permanent nature."

Comprehensive Conservation Plan - Defined as "A detailed plan that has been formally adopted by the governing board which includes goals and objectives--both short and long term, must show how this building will enhance the overall conservation goals of the project and the protection or preservation of wildlife and fish habitat or natural areas." This does not need to be a complex multi-page document. It could be included as a part of the application or be an attachment.

New and Expanded Recreational Project means that the proposed building cannot be a replacement of a current building. The proposed building must also be related to either a new or expanded recreational project--either an expansion in land or an expansion of an existing building or in the opportunities for recreation at the project site.

Playground equipment calculation - Only the actual costs of the playground equipment (a bid or invoice showing the amount of the equipment costs must be provided) - cannot include freight or installation or surface materials or removal of old equipment, etc.

Staffing/Outside Consultants Costs - If you are requesting OHF funding for staffing or for an outside consultant, you must provide information in your application on the need for OHF funding to cover these costs. For example, if you are an entity that has engineering staff you must explain why you don't have sufficient staff to do the work or if specific expertise is needed or whatever the reason is for your entity to retain an outside consultant. If it is a request for reimbursement for staff time then a written explanation is required in the application of why OHF funding is needed to pay for the costs of that staff member(s)' time. **The budget form must reflect on a separate line item the specific amount that is being requested for staffing and/or the hiring of an outside consultant.** This separate line item will then be used to make the calculation of 5% or 10% as outlined in the law. Note that the calculation will be made on the grant less the costs for the consultant or staff.

Maintenance – Activities that preserve or keep infrastructure in a given existing condition, including repairs. Repair means to restore to sound condition after damage, to renew or refresh; except repairs due to damage caused by Acts of God.

Scoring of Grants

Oral Presentation. Please note that you will be given an opportunity to make a ten-minute Oral Presentation at a meeting of the Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board. These presentations are strongly encouraged.

Open Record. Please note that your application and any attachments will be open records as defined by law and will be posted on the Industrial Commission/Outdoor Heritage Fund website.

All applications will be scored by the Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board after your ten-minute oral presentation. The ranking form that will be used by the Board is available on the website at <http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm> .

Awarding of Grants

All decisions on requests will be reported to applicants no later than 30 days after Industrial Commission consideration. The Commission can set a limit on duration of an offer on each application or if there isn't a specific date indicated in the application for implementation of the project, then the applicant has until the next Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board regular meeting to sign the contract and get the project underway or the commitment for funding will be terminated and the applicant may resubmit for funding. Applicants whose proposals have been approved will receive a contract outlining the terms and conditions of the grant.

Responsibility of Recipient

The recipient of any grant from the Industrial Commission must use the funds awarded for the specific purpose described in the grant application and in accordance with the contract. The recipient cannot use any of the funds for the purposes stated under Exemptions on the first page of this application.

If you have any questions about the application, the Commission can be reached at 701-328-3722 or ndicgrants@nd.gov.

Revised: November 4, 2019, April 12, 2023