

Organization: Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge (Cedar Run)

Website: <https://www.cedarrun.org/>

Location: Burlington County

Counties being Served: Our target population includes all residents of southern New Jersey, with a particular focus on Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester counties.

Organization Mission:

Cedar Run is dedicated to NJ's children, wildlife, and the habitats they share. It is home to the busiest wildlife rehabilitation hospital in the tri-state area - New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware. Located on 171-acres of protected habitat in Medford, NJ, with an on-site wildlife rehabilitation hospital and nature center, it hosts STEM and nature-based education programs for all ages. Cedar Run's mission is the preservation of New Jersey's wildlife and habitats through education, conservation, and rehabilitation, serving as a community resource on the importance of protecting and enhancing healthy ecosystems for all.

Organization's Total Operating Budget (Current Year): \$692,290

Project Name: Creating Exciting New Opportunities for Environmental and Wildlife Education in South Jersey.

Project Description:

The proposed After School Program will allow Cedar Run to expand its reach and impact, providing more in-depth STEM and wildlife education on a variety of topics throughout the school year. The Education Department staff will develop a full suite of lessons and activities to engage young minds in nature and STEM-based education, including classroom lessons, hands-on activities, and group projects, to further develop critical thinking skills and a love for learning. They will work closely with existing school partners, beginning with the communities of Marlton and Medford.

Through this funding, a 14-passenger van will be purchased to transport students in the After School Program from their school to Cedar Run. The van will also be of service to other Cedar Run programs. Over the 24-month project time period, the program will serve approximately 224 students through participation in the After School Program, plus an additional 100 students through the availability of weekly Summer Camp field trip days, and approximately 168 people through participation in guided field trips, resulting in a total reach of nearly 500 people.

Cedar Run believes that by experiencing nature first-hand, students gain a better appreciation for scientific exploration, environmental issues, wildlife and the life sciences, and stewardship of the natural world. As the pandemic recedes and students return to in-person learning in the fall, Cedar Run considers the proposed program to be especially relevant, compelling, and critical at this time.