

**Business of the Village Board
Village of Saranac Lake**

BILL #: 17-2026

SUBJECT: Cannabis Sales Taxation Grant Program Application

FOR AGENDA: 2/9/2026

DEPT OF ORIGIN: Village Manager

DATE SUBMITTED: 1/30/2026

Resolution authorizing the acceptance of the Cannabis Sales Taxation Funds Grant Application
by Adirondack Mountain Club

MOVED BY: Ryan SECONDED BY: white

VOTE ON ROLL CALL:

MAYOR WILLIAMS	<u>yes</u>
TRUSTEE BRUNETTE	<u>yes</u>
TRUSTEE RYAN	<u>yes</u>
TRUSTEE SCOLLIN	<u>yes</u>
TRUSTEE WHITE	<u>yes</u>

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF CANNABIS SALES
TAXATION FUNDS GRANT APPLICATION**

WHEREAS, the Village of Saranac Lake has established the Cannabis Sales Taxation Funds Grant Program to allocate local cannabis sales tax revenues toward projects that support youth programs, community well-being, and recreational opportunities for Village residents, and

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, submitted an application to the Village of Saranac Lake under the Cannabis Sales Taxation Funds Grant Program requesting funding assistance in the amount of \$5,000 for the “three seasons at heart lake” youth program, and,

WHEREAS, the proposed project provides classroom-based and outdoor educational programming for fourth-grade students, including students from the Saranac Lake area, and aligns with the grant program’s funding priorities for youth education, healthy lifestyles, and community benefit, and

WHEREAS, the Village Clerk has reviewed the application for completeness and eligibility and prepared a summary for the Village Board of Trustees in accordance with the Cannabis Sales Taxation Funds Grant Program guidelines.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Saranac Lake Board of Trustees hereby approves and accepts the Cannabis Sales Taxation Funds Grant Program application submitted by the Adirondack Mountain Club for the “Three Seasons at Heart Lake” project in an amount not to exceed \$5,000, subject to compliance with all applicable program requirements.



Village of Saranac Lake

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Cannabis Sales Taxation Funds Grant Program

Application Summary

Applicant: Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK)

Organization Type: 501(c)(3) Nonprofit

Project Title: *Three Seasons at Heart Lake*

Amount Requested: \$5,000

Total Project Cost: \$121,900

Service Area: Saranac Lake and surrounding Adirondack school districts

Project Description

The program provides a combination of classroom instruction and seasonal outdoor field experiences at Heart Lake in Lake Placid. Students will participate in four in-class educational visits and three field trips during the school year, with programming focused on outdoor activity, environmental literacy, place-based learning, and responsible recreation.

Alignment With Village Priorities

The application demonstrates alignment with commonly identified Village priorities for cannabis sales tax funding:

- Youth education and development: The program targets elementary-age students and promotes learning, physical activity, and personal development at a formative age.
- Community well-being: Programming encourages healthy lifestyles, environmental awareness, and safe outdoor recreation, supporting long-term community benefits.
- Local benefit within a regional program: While the program serves multiple counties, Saranac Lake-area schools are included among participating districts, and the program has historic ties to the community.

Program Outcomes and Experience

ADK reports measurable outcomes using pre- and post-program surveys. During the 2025–26 school year, the program engaged approximately 390 students over 462 instructional hours, with students demonstrating increased outdoor skills, environmental awareness, and positive place-based attitudes. The program has operated continuously since 2001.

Financial Considerations

The requested \$5,000 represents a small portion of the overall program budget and would leverage significant outside funding, including foundation and private donor support. ADK indicates that this program has not previously received funding from the Village of Saranac Lake.

Summary

The application presents an established, ongoing educational program with documented outcomes and regional reach that includes Saranac Lake students. The modest funding request would supplement an existing program supported primarily through non-Village sources.

Village of Saranac Lake Cannabis Sales Taxation Funds Grant Program

Application

*Applicant Information

- Organization Name: Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK)
- Mailing Address: P.O. Box 867, Lake Placid, NY 12946
- Primary Contact Person: Joshua Ellis; Executive and Development Associate
- Contact Information: (pref.) joshe@adk.org cell: 716-467-3993
- Organization Type/Status: 501(c)(3) Nonprofit

*Project Details

- Project Title: Three Seasons at Heart Lake
- Funding Priority Area: Franklin (Saranac Lake, Petrova, St. Bernard's), Essex, Hamilton, and Clinton Counties
- Project Summary: Three Seasons at Heart Lake is a program that works to build lifelong connections between fourth graders and the Adirondack Park they call home. Our program shows these students at an impressionable age that the place where they live is special, and works to grow a future constituency of land stewardship advocates. This is accomplished through 4 classroom visits from ADK educators and 3 field trip visits to Heart Lake in Lake Placid for each of the 14 school districts served.
- Project Objectives: The program has four main goals: To promote outdoor activity as part of a healthy lifestyle, foster a connection to the Adirondacks through place-based learning to combat out-migration of youth in the park, encourage environmental literacy and awareness of the natural world, and build skills in responsible recreation.
- Target Audience/Population: Fourth-grade students across 14 school districts of the Adirondacks
- Expected Outcomes: As of the 2025-26 school year alone, the Three Seasons at Heart Lake educators have engaged 390 students for a collective 462 hours of lessons and activities both in the classroom and outdoors. These fourth-graders are given the following statements in a pre- and post-program survey: "I learn new things when I play outside," "I have hiked a mountain," "The place I'm from is special," "I know how to use Leave No Trace to Protect Nature," "I know how to use a map." After each course, the students report stronger positive alignments with each of these statements, and we continue to see this trend since the program's inception in 2001. This outreach initiative is about empowering students to recreate responsibly and safely, connecting them to their communities in a tactile and analog way, and showing North Country kids what they are capable of.

- Project Timeline: Class visits and field trips are initiated in September for Fall programming and a Mt. Jo hike, Winter programs include snowshoeing at Heart Lake and the Winter classroom visit, and the final field trip and in-class experiences wrap up in June for the end of the school year with a free invitatio to visit Heart Lake with their families in the Summer.

- Project Location: 14 fourth-grade classrooms; Heart Lake Program Center at 1002 Adirondack Loj Rd, Lake Placid, NY 12946

***Budget and Funding**

- Total Project Cost: \$121,900

- Amount Requested from Village: \$5,000

- Matching Funds (if applicable): N/A

- Budget Breakdown:

Personnel:

Education Director: \$10,000

Education Manager: \$10,000

Environmental Education Coordinator: \$40,000

Outdoor Educator: \$20,000

Outdoor Educator: \$20,000

Fringe (24% of FT Staff): \$14,400

Total Payroll: \$114,400

Other:

Equipment and Supplies: \$6,500

Classroom Travel: \$1000

Total Other: \$7,500

- Sustainability: The Three Seasons at Heart Lake program has been a priority of the Adirondack Mountain Club since 2001, when we began with only two schools (one being Saranac Lake!). We continue to show our support of the program's success by funding staff time and materials through private and public donors, and the operations budget of ADK's Education Department.

***Additional Information**

- Previous Village Funding: This program has yet to be supported by the Village of Saranac Lake to my knowledge, but the Adirondack Mountain Club has been a recipient of ROOST's LEAF grant in the past. The most recent example was the installation of an accessible Lean-to at Heart Lake and improvements to Mt. Jo's Long Trail for greater public safety and accessibility.

- Other Support:

Chapel Hill Foundation: \$15,000

Stewart's Community Giving: \$2,000

Marie L. Haberl Education Fund Donor: \$50,000

- Permits or Approvals: N/A

- Proof of Insurance: Attached

- Additional Attachments:

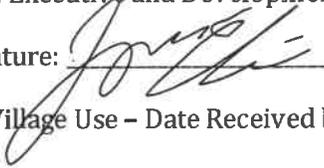
"Outdoor Education Empowers Kids," by Seth Jones

Letter of Support from Temnit Muldowney; 4th Grade Teacher at Petrova Elementary School

Applicant Certification and Signature

- Authorized Representative Name: Joshua A. Ellis

- Title: Executive and Development Associate

- Signature:  Date: 1/21/26

- For Village Use – Date Received by Village Clerk: _____