



Introduction

Thank you for participating in the Walking Softer Education program! Walking Softer is on a mission to inspire and support environmental Changemakers. We are passionate about empowering, supporting, and resourcing youth and educators to participate in environmental solutions. We hope Walking Softer Education helps develop students' real-world skills and positions them well to succeed in our changing world!

Curriculum Information

Walking Softer Education has four required lesson plans, which must be completed with students to qualify for funding and scholarships. Additional optional lesson plans are available for more in-depth exploration of topics.

Each lesson has a lesson plan intended for educator use and an accompanying student-facing presentation that should be displayed and used to facilitate the lesson. These materials are downloadable from our website. The required lessons are designed for 30-minute meetings. For groups short on time, focus on the bolded discussion questions in the lesson plans.

Some activities call for breaking out into pairs or small groups. Use your best judgment based on the size of your group to determine what makes the most sense. In general, feel free to modify the lessons based on your specific situation and students. The important thing is that you are still providing students the opportunity to achieve the desired outcomes, which are outlined at the beginning of each lesson.

Project Information

After completing the lessons and submitting the necessary registration documents, your group will implement a community environmental project. Up to \$2,000 in funding from Walking Softer is available to support those projects. Project How-to Guides designed to support the project process are also available on the Walking Softer website. A completed How-to Guide must be submitted to Walking Softer with an itemized invoice to receive funding.

Timeline

In general, this program is flexible in terms of timing. However, we do require that groups complete the program within the same academic school year in which they start.

Additionally, you will be required to select one of the three specific funding distribution dates (August 15th, November 1st, or March 15th), so keep that in mind when planning the program's implementation. The final step to complete the program is to submit the Final Program Report on the Connect portal.

Additional Opportunities

Participating groups in Walking Softer Education are also eligible to enter the All-Stars Challenge. The All-Stars Challenge is an asynchronous event in which participating groups submit a video highlighting their team's community project to a panel of judges. More information about the All-Stars Challenge can be found on our website.

Juniors and seniors participating in the program are also eligible to apply for a \$5,000 to \$20,000 non-renewable scholarship to support their further education. Students must be part of groups that have successfully completed their registration for the Walking Softer Education program, and listed on the student roster. More information about the scholarship can be found on our website.

Stay in Touch!

We sincerely hope you and your students enjoy this program and feel supported through its implementation. It would not exist without the hard work that educators like you are doing on the ground with your students, and we very much appreciate your willingness to take the time and effort to participate in it. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us at education@walkingsofter.org.

Thank you, and have fun!



Jackson Ray
Education Manager