

# Wheels to Woods 2021 Annual Report



27 fifth and sixth graders from Ewen-Trout Creek in Ewen, MI visited the Ottawa National Forest in October 2021.

February 2022

Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Forest Products Council,

Michigan Project Learning Tree and Michigan Tree Farm Committee



Application form and other resources are at [www.WheelsToWoods.org](http://www.WheelsToWoods.org).

## Accomplishments in 2021

Often the biggest barrier for teachers to take their students on field trips is funding. Wheels to Woods provides transportation grants to schools to go on educational field trips to nearby forests. Wheels to Woods is a partnership of the Michigan Tree Farm Committee, Michigan Forest Products Council, Michigan Project Learning Tree, and the Michigan Forest Stewardship Program. This year’s numbers sharply declined compared to previous years due to the pandemic and Michigan schools being closed in the spring. Despite the closings, Wheels to Woods was able to fund 14 field trips to Michigan’s forests in 2021 which impacted 3,168 people.

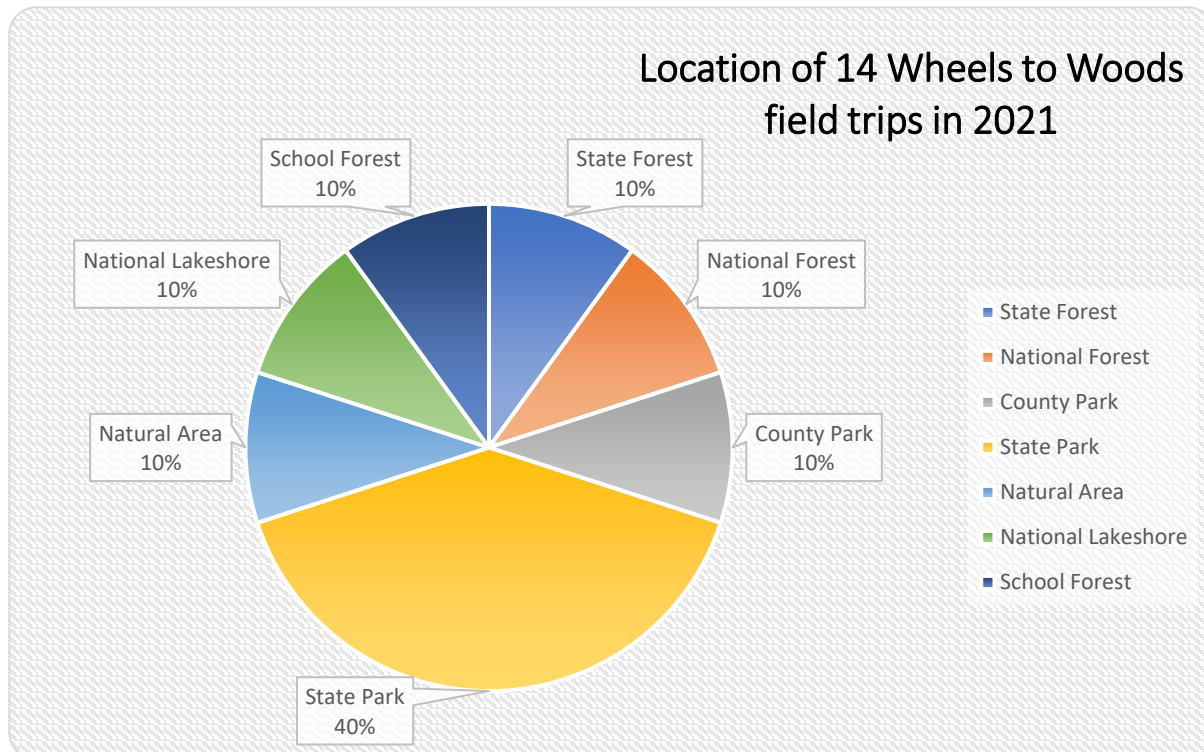
- \$4,094 awarded or \$7.07 per student
- 984 students experienced a forest
- 56 parents chaperoned the field trips
- 51 teachers and 8 outdoor educators hosted field trips
- 50% of trips included Project Learning Tree curriculum

### Wheels to Woods accomplishments between 2016 and 2021

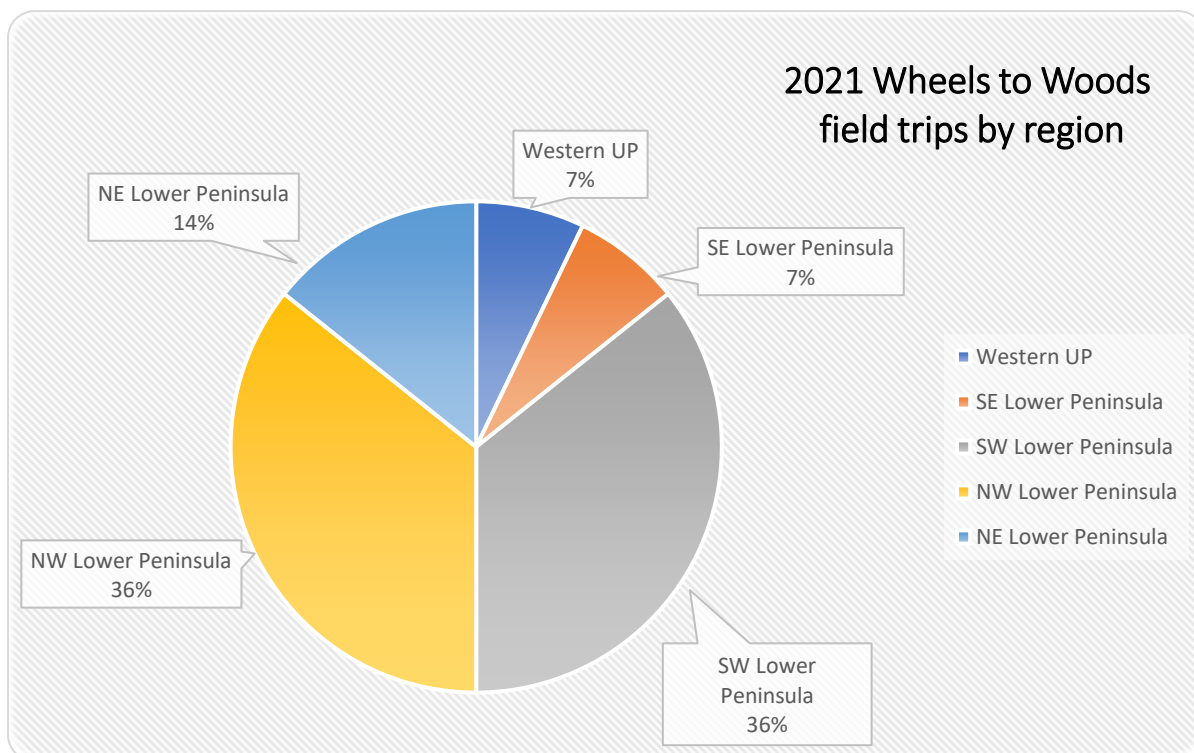
Year	W2W Grants	Avg \$/Student	Schools	Students	Teachers	Chaperones	Interpreters	Total People
2016	\$26,428	\$4.22	84	6,259	274	997	73	7,603
2017	\$31,669	\$3.93	99	8,051	409	1,255	87	9,802
2018	\$40,558	\$3.69	111	10,999	485	1,600	86	13,170
2019	\$30,653	\$3.28	90	9,341	440	1,235	60	11,076
2020	\$8,643	\$3.07	24	2,820	124	208	16	3,168
2021	\$4,094	\$7.07	14	984	51	56	8	1,099
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$142,045</b>	<b>\$4.21</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>38,454</b>	<b>1,783</b>	<b>5,351</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>45,918</b>



90 first and second graders from Grayling Elementary School visited the Au Sable Institute in October 2021



Most field trips this year were visiting forests in Michigan’s state parks. The remaining field trips were equally dispersed between Natural Areas, National Lakeshore, School Forests, State Forests, National Forests and County Parks. If teachers are unsure where to take their students for a forestry focused field trip, they can email [admin@wheelstowoods.org](mailto:admin@wheelstowoods.org) for suggestions.



Most of the field trips this year took place in the lower peninsula, with most of those trips taking place on the west side of the state. One upper peninsula school received Wheels to Woods funding. The least number of trips this year occurred in the upper peninsula, and zero trips occurred in the eastern upper peninsula.

# *Thank you for supporting Wheels to Woods!*

"I really think our field trips to the woods improves the lives of children! Thank you! Our school cannot budget for the cost of transportation. It would not happen without Weels2Woods."

- Sue Blackall (Sparta Schools)



"I liked cutting the wood with the crosscut saw because it's something you really can't do every day and it takes teamwork, it just wasn't one person doing the work."

"I gained an appreciation for people using wood as fuel to heat their homes."

"I thought snowshoeing was fun because we were outside enjoying the woods."

"I liked just walking in the woods and being away from all of the other things, it was peaceful."

"I had no clue sap came out of the tree clear. I thought it was a brownish color. It was also cool watching the sap boil and turn into syrup and then even eating it!"

"I learned how sap is collected from the trees to make maple syrup."

- All above quotes are from the students at Waldon Middle School, Mr. Jon Gray's 8<sup>th</sup> grade class

Wheels to Woods is an effort to get more students outside to discover, explore and learn about Michigan's beautiful public, private and urban forests. On average, it costs less than \$5 to send one student on a life-changing field trip.

Applications and more information are available at [www.WheelsToWoods.org](http://www.WheelsToWoods.org). Applications can be submitted any time to [admin@WheelsToWoods.org](mailto:admin@WheelsToWoods.org).

Paige Lackey, with Huron Pines AmeriCorps, was the administrator for Wheels to Woods in 2020 and 2021. Contact Paige at [lackey.paige@gmail.com](mailto:lackey.paige@gmail.com) or 616-295-8494 for more information.

If you would like to donate to Wheels to Woods, text W2W to 80888 or visit [igfn.us/f/373e/n](https://igfn.us/f/373e/n).

Wheels to Woods is a partnership of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Tree Farm Committee, Michigan Project Learning Tree, Michigan Forest Products Council and Huron Pines AmeriCorps. The Michigan Tree Farm Committee, a 501c3 non-profit, is the host and fiduciary for Wheels to Woods to receive tax deductible donations and disburse grants to schools. All partners are equal opportunity providers and employers.