



Dear Missouri Teachers,

[2026 GLADE Student Application](#)

The GLADE project (Green Leadership Academy for Diverse Ecosystems) has become a nationally recognized youth conservation leadership academy and it is **FREE** to selected participants through the generous grants we have obtained. We are entering our sixteenth year of inspiring high school students to become empowered, environmentally conscious future leaders. Our focus habitat is the prairies of SW Missouri and we have increased the number of students we can reach, but we need your help finding the right students!

We depend on teachers to help us get the word out! **Please refer your conservation minded students to us for this free week in the wood, on the streams, and in the prairie!** We are looking for students who are in their Sophomore or Junior year of high school who can commit to attending all of GLADE, June 7-13th, 2026. We hope you will **help students fill out the online application** and encourage her/him to complete the one page student essay and write a letter of recommendation for the student. Ideally, we would like to serve 1-2 students from your high school. **We are looking for individuals with a love for the outdoors and a desire to impact the world around them.** Please ask your curious, conservation minded students if they would like to become a GLADE-er this summer. Please show your class this video. [GLADE Video on YouTube](#)

GLADE will be held **June 7th thru 13th, Sunday to Saturday.** During the weeklong residential stay at the Childress Camp near Joplin, participants will engage in leadership activities, prairie walks, fire ecology, bird banding, reptile and insect research, habitat restoration, water quality monitoring, and bumble bee surveys at the historic Diamond Prairie and George Washington Carver National Monument. Our schedule includes visits from Dr. Chris Barnhart (researcher in all things butterfly and mussels), MDC, Prairie Foundation, Nature Conservancy, Shoal Creek Watershed, Missouri State Instructors, Bumblebee Atlas, and Master Naturalists.

Ann Wallenmeyer will be the GLADE Director, she recently retired from science curriculum work in Springfield Public Schools. She has a background in biology and is involved in local environmental organizations. For the fourth year, Kendell Slaughter will be the Assistant Director. Kendall is the Farm 2 School Specialist for Springfield Public Schools and graduated with a Forestry degree from Oklahoma State University. Both Ann and Kendall have a mission to teach students a land ethic and provide hands-on experiences to inspire the students to be environmental leaders. We are delighted to have both of these seasoned professionals at the helm for GLADE.

We, at GOAS, are very proud of our track record with GLADE alumni, talk to those students you've referred to us in the past to gauge the success of the experience. Visit our Instagram, Facebook, or GOAS <https://www.greaterozarksaudubon.org/glade> to find out more about the program. You can access the online application at [GLADE 2026 Application](#). For more information, email Ann Wallenmeyer at gladeproject@gmail.com or text her 417-343-0992. Applications are due **by April 23rd**. Thank you for your new and/or continued support of this quality youth conservation leadership program!



Sincerely, The Greater Ozarks Audubon Society