



OZARK NATURAL SCIENCE CENTER

Enhancing the understanding, appreciation and stewardship of the Ozark natural environment.

How can Walmart & Sam's Club associates support ONSC?

Refresh my memory – what is ONSC and what do you do?

The Ozark Natural Science Center is a non-profit field science and environmental education and conference facility. ONSC offers summer camps and adult and family programming, and is best known as the site of life-altering school excursions for public and private school students from throughout northwest Arkansas and beyond.

We are located on 500 pristine acres of Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission land in the Bear Hollow Natural Area in rural Madison county, between Eureka Springs and Huntsville, in the Ozarks of northwest Arkansas. Our campus includes three rustic lodges, indoor and outdoor classrooms, an observation deck and nearly eight miles of hiking trails. ONSC employs an outstanding team of twenty-two administrative, food service and maintenance staff as well as experienced teacher naturalists with backgrounds and advanced degrees ranging from aquatic resources to zoology as well as training and certifications in wilderness safety and first aid. ONSC was founded in 1990 by locals Ken and RuAnn Ewing and has served more than 40,000 children since inception.

Why does ONSC need help?

The Ozark Natural Science Center is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. We do not receive state funding even though we are located on Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission land. We serve more than 4,000 children each year: every fifth grader in the Rogers and Bentonville school districts, many Springdale and Fayetteville schools as well as numerous private and parochial schools, home school groups and schools outside the region.

However, not every school district or family can afford to pay for the amazing ONSC experience. Because we want every child to experience ONSC, we suffer a loss of around \$30 on each of those 4,000 kids per year. Additionally, we have many needs for equipment, facilities, operations and staff which are not covered by the school program fees.

Rest assured we're doing our part! We hold an annual fundraiser in April, Call of the Wild, to offset as many expenses as possible. Our board of directors works hard to raise money and awareness, and we hold small fundraisers and pursue grants throughout the year.

How do you align with Walmart's focus areas?

We are proud of the ways we fit with Walmart's focus on **education** (it's why we exist), **job skills training** (although it isn't our focus, kids learn life skills and often make decisions about their future thanks to ONSC), **health** (many kids have their first significant outdoor experience – such as a hike or campfire – at ONSC, and healthy food choices are part of our program) and **environmental sustainability** (again, it's why we exist).

What can I do as an associate?

Walmart and Sam's Club have four outstanding programs designed to allow associates to support local nonprofit organizations financially and through volunteerism. These four programs are amazingly simple ways for associates to assist ONSC:

1. **Local Choice Grants:** Each department may nominate one nonprofit per funding cycle to receive \$10,000 to \$100,000 (although departments may only receive one approved grant per fiscal year). The application is simple and short (1.5 pages), and is attached along with Walmart's guidelines.
2. **Community Grants:** Each department may nominate a nonprofit by November 30 to receive a \$1,000 community grant for the following year. The short [application](#) and guidelines are attached.
3. **Volunteerism Always Pays:** Associates who volunteer 24+ hours of their time with a nonprofit organization may earn \$250 twice/year for that nonprofit through [VAP](#). That means just one visit as a parent chaperone qualifies us for \$250 thanks to you!
4. **Paid Day to Volunteer:** Associates receive one paid day a year to volunteer with a local nonprofit.

What else can I do? Of course, there are plenty of other ways to get involved!

1. Visit our [website](#) and read or subscribe to our [e-news](#).
2. Serve as a parent chaperone when the opportunity arises with your kids' school.
3. Attend Call of the Wild or one of our other community fundraisers.
4. Participate in an adult or family program such as our Spring Break Camp, Women's Yoga Retreat (weekend after Mother's Day), Dads in the Woods (Father's Day weekend), Wilderness First Aid courses or Member Weekend (fall).
5. Send your kids or grandkids to a unique ONSC summer camp.
6. Give a financial donation or become a member.
7. Use GoodSearch when you search the web and we receive funds for every search.
8. Collect items to upcycle through Terracycle and we receive a financial contributions.
9. Be active with our ONSC Corps volunteer group or attend a volunteer work day.
10. Check out our needs list – we have all sorts of needs for equipment and materials.
11. Connect with us on Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn and read our blog.
12. Tell others about the Ozark Natural Science Center!

Ozark Natural Science Center

A private, nonprofit field science education and conference facility in northwest Arkansas.

1905 Madison 1305 • Huntsville, AR 72740

479.789.2754 • www.onsc.us

