

2026 NATURE EXPLORER BACKPACK PROJECT | MOCHILAS DE EXPLORADOR

# Sponsor the Nature Explorer Backpacks



BRUSHWOOD CENTER



2026 GOAL:

1,000  
BACKPACKS

3,000  
ACTIVITY BOOKS

### LET'S GET OUTSIDE!

Brushwood Center and our partners across Lake County are teaming up to provide 1,000 bilingual Nature Explorer Backpacks / Mochilas de Explorador to youth and families in Waukegan, North Chicago, Round Lake, Gurnee, and Highwood.

We will also distribute a new health and nature activity book highlighting the power of community across borders.



## THE NATURE EXPLORER BACKPACK STORY

Since 2020, the Nature Explorer Backpack/Mochilas de Explorador program has empowered nature exploration and healthy family-friendly activities.



**5,000+**

**Nature Explorer  
Backpacks distributed  
since 2020.**

**2020** In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Brushwood begins creating and distributing 500 bilingual backpacks with tools to support physical and mental health in the outdoors.

**2021** Brushwood Center assembled and delivered 600 Nature Explorer Backpacks to our partners at the Highwood, North Chicago, Round Lake, and Waukegan Public Libraries.

**2022** The program grows, and Brushwood collaborates with artist Diana Nava to create *Eddie's Environmental Justice Journey/ El viaje de Eddie hacia la Justicia Ambiental* a health and nature activity book.

**2023** 1,200 Backpacks distributed, and *Find Yourself Outside/ Encuéntrate a ti mismo al aire libre* brings the Health, Equity, and Nature Report data to young audiences.

**2024** Surveys show over 75% of survey respondents reported feeling more confident exploring nature with their families using their Nature Explorer Backpacks.

**2025** In response to increased fear of being outside, Brushwood and our partners launch NEST (Nature Exploring Safety Tools) Packs for immigrant communities.

SPONSOR THE PROJECT

Your donation makes a difference to Lake County families!

**This year our goal is to create and distribute 1,000 backpacks. We welcome gifts of any amount to support our backpack project.**

Sponsors will be acknowledged throughout the year on the Brushwood website, as program sponsors for the Smith Nature Symposium, and in social media posts related to the program.

\$25,000

Premiere sponsorship supports our Summer Education Intern position and coordination of the Backpack Program and nature education events.  
\* Includes two tickets to the 2026 Smith Nature Symposium Awards Dinner on October 10th.

\$15,000

Supports purchase of 1,000 backpacks for children and transportation for distribution.  
\* Includes two tickets to the 2026 Smith Nature Symposium Awards Dinner on October 10th.

\$10,000

Printing of 3,000 activity books and 1,000 backpack Parent Packets in English and Spanish

\$5,000

Supplemental materials in backpacks including art supplies, magnifying lenses, field guides, and more

\$2,500

Translation and editing of all health and nature resources in backpacks

\$1,000

Supports a local artist in creating the activity book

# SPONSORSHIP COMMITMENT

Sponsorship Level

\$25,000    \$15,000    \$10,000    \$5,000    \$2,500    \$1,000

Payment Method

Name:

Check (payable to Brushwood Center at Ryerson Woods)

Please send me an invoice for submission of payment.

Credit Card

Number:

Expiration:

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Mail this Form to:

Brushwood Center, 21850 N. Riverwoods Road, Riverwoods, IL 60015

Or Email this Form to:

Mirja Spooner Haffner, Director of Development  
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224.633.2424 ext. 6

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