



## Approved Field Trip Destinations

Field trips provide an eye-opening experience for students to expand their learning outside of the classroom. Students are oftentimes asked to sort recycling, organics, and trash into their appropriate bins without any real understanding of what happens to these items. Dakota County intends to bridge this gap of understanding by providing transportation for schools to have the opportunity to visit recycling facilities, landfills, and organics composting facilities to see first-hand why it all matters.

### Guidelines and Restrictions

Prerequisite: schools must meet recycling best practices throughout the interior of the building (Photo Documentation Form) unless a Traditional Recycling Grant has been accepted.

- Eligibility: Grade Four students, Green Team (i.e., environmental club) students Grades Five and above, and adult chaperones and school staff.
- Participants: Groups must have at least 25 participants.
- Bus availability: Busing for field trips is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until funding for the year is allocated. Buses are provided through a contract Dakota County has with a bus company. The county cannot reimburse for busing arranged independently or through other companies.
- Bus capacity: Consider each facility's maximum group size when determining the number of buses needed. You may have the ability to drop part of the group off if traveling to two facilities near one another. Multiple buses may be requested per school to accommodate participant or location capacity.
- Filming: Ask for facility permission prior to any recording or photography onsite, as some locations do not allow.
- Waivers: Facilities may require their own waivers for completion in addition to school permission forms.
- Cancellations: To cancel the field trip, the school must notify all field trip locations and [schoolrecycling@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:schoolrecycling@co.dakota.mn.us) at least five (5) business days in advance before the scheduled field trip. Without advance notice, the school may lose eligibility.

### Choosing a Field Trip Destination

The field trip destinations included in this document are the only field trip sites approved for bus transportation from Dakota County. Schools may choose one to three destinations from the approved list.

Field trips to organics composting facilities are not allowed if your school does not have an organics collection program currently. All schools are encouraged to visit a recycling facility and landfill.

### Before and After Your Field Trip

Planning pre- and post-field trip activities for your group will help prepare them for the field trip and reinforce and enhance the learning during and after the field trip. Free Dakota County [activity guides are available to order online](#) for K-8 students ([www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search *school recycling*).

Educational recycling videos are also available:

- [The Story of a Cereal Box](#) (10 minutes)
- [Dem-Con Recycling Facility](#) (8 minutes)
- [How does a Material Recovery Facility \(MRF\) work?](#) (3 minutes)
- [Recycle Often, Recycle Right](#) (2 minutes)

Schools are encouraged to have students develop questions to ask prior to the field trip.





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### Recycling Facilities

See in-person how material collected at your school is sorted by both machines and people into material categories like paper, metal, glass and plastic to be sold to end markets for the creation of new products.

Site	Description	Details	Wheelchair Accessibility	Maximum Group Size	Time	Required wear	Address	Contact
Recycle Minnesota <i>Operated by Dick's Sanitation</i>	Classroom session, tour of the recycling facility, and a recap of what was learned.	Participants 8 years and older can tour inside facility.	Education classroom is wheelchair accessible; recycling facility tour is not.	35 participants Open to consecutive tours for larger groups.	1 hour	Closed-toe shoes required.	8984 215 <sup>th</sup> St. W, Lakeville	Jeff Weast 952-469-2239 <a href="mailto:jweast@dicksSanitation.com">jweast@dicksSanitation.com</a> <a href="http://www.recyclemn.org">www.recyclemn.org</a>
Inver Grove Heights Recycle Center <i>Operated by Republic Services</i>	Classroom session, virtual or in-person tour (depending on age of group) and answering questions.	Participants 14 years and older can tour inside facility. <i>Located next to the Pine Bend Sanitary Landfill.</i>	Not wheelchair accessible.	30 participants Open to consecutive tours for larger groups.	1 hour	Closed-toe shoes required.	2795 117 <sup>th</sup> St. E, Inver Grove Heights	Scott Moening 612-522-8124 <a href="mailto:smoening@republicservices.com">smoening@republicservices.com</a>

### Landfills

Observe the operation of an active landfill to gain a better understanding of where a large majority of our trash goes and how it is maintained now and for years to come.

Site	Description	Details	Wheelchair Accessibility	Maximum Group Size	Time	Required wear	Address	Contact
Burnsville Sanitary Landfill <i>Operated by Waste Management</i>	Weather permitting, landfill staff will ride the bus with students onto the landfill to peek inside, see equipment and answer questions.	Participants stay on the bus for the entirety of the tour.	Yes, if request bus with wheelchair lift.	Bus Capacity Open to consecutive/ simultaneous tours for larger groups.	45-60 min.	N/A (students stay on bus).	2650 Cliff Road W, Burnsville	Mike Miller 952-656-5014 <a href="mailto:mmille@wm.com">mmille@wm.com</a>
Pine Bend Sanitary Landfill <i>Operated by Republic Services</i>	Weather permitting, landfill staff will ride the bus with students onto the landfill to peek inside, see equipment and answer questions.	Participants stay on the bus for the entirety of the tour. <i>Located next to the Inver Grove Heights Recycle Center.</i>	Yes, if request bus with wheelchair lift.	Bus Capacity Open to consecutive tours for larger groups.	45-60 min.	N/A (students stay on bus).	2495 117 <sup>th</sup> St. E, Inver Grove Heights	Chris Parker 612-300-8610 <a href="mailto:cparker@republicservices.com">cparker@republicservices.com</a>

### Organics Composting Sites

Learn and see firsthand how food placed in the organics bin at your school is turned into valuable compost, which is used to improve soil in landscaping and construction projects.

Site	Description	Details	Wheelchair Accessibility	Maximum Group Size	Time	Required wear	Address	Contact
SET/The Mulch Store	Participants walk the facility grounds to see equipment in operation and get a detailed explanation of the process.	Tours take place entirely outside-dress for the weather.	Not wheelchair accessible.	25 participants Open to consecutive/ simultaneous tours for larger groups.	45-60 min.	Closed-toe shoes required.	16454 Blaine Ave. E, Rosemount	Jake Duame 952-946-6999 <a href="mailto:jduame@setinc.net">jduame@setinc.net</a> <a href="http://www.mulchstoremn.com">www.mulchstoremn.com</a>
Shakopee Mdwakanton Sioux Community Organics Recycling Facility	Classroom presentation and tour of facility grounds in bus.	Getting off bus to view compost will be determined day of.	Not wheelchair accessible.	25 participants Open to consecutive tours for larger groups.	45-60 min.	Closed-toe shoes required, long pants recommended	1905 Mystic Lake Dr. S, Shakopee	Kelsey Scares the Hawk 952-233-9189 <a href="mailto:kelsey.scaresthehawk@shakopeedakota.org">kelsey.scaresthehawk@shakopeedakota.org</a> <a href="http://www.smscorf.com">www.smscorf.com</a>

