

Grand Strand Chapter Grant Program

Spring 2025



The Grand Strand Chapter of the South Carolina Native Plant Society (SCNPS) is pleased to announce our Spring 2025 Grant Program. The SCNPS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization working to protect and restore native plants and educate our communities. The Grand Strand Chapter, based in Conway, hosts field trips, plant sales, invasive species removals, lectures, and meetings to promote native plants in our region.

Our Grand Strand Chapter Grants Program allows us to support local projects that align with the SCNPS mission. If your organization, community group, or school is interested in working with native plants in any capacity, we invite you to consider applying for one of our grants! Please read below for details about this funding opportunity, as well as application requirements and deadlines.

Grant Overview & Requirements

Projects must be directed at protecting, restoring, and/or educating the public or students about native plants in the Grand Strand region of South Carolina. We are especially interested in funding projects involving cultural significance, rare species, or the removal of invasive species.

Project location:

- Eligible projects must be located in Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Marion, or Williamsburg counties.
- You must demonstrate that you have permission to implement your project.
 - o For community projects, if applicants do not own the property, you must provide written permission from the property owner for the project. If the site is owned by your organization, please include a letter from your organization explaining the property ownership and confirming support of your application. *Community project funds are not to be used on personal property or for personal gain.*
 - o For school projects, applicants must provide documentation that permission has been granted by the school for the project.

Funding & Reporting:

- Funds must be used within one year of issuance.
- After the project completion, the Grant Committee Chair will work with the applicant(s) to provide a final report to the chapter and board. This might include a tour of the project site, short presentation during a bi-monthly chapter meeting, or written blog post (with photos) to be published on scnps.org.
- Successful applicants may only apply for one project per fiscal year (July 1 to June 30).

Signage & Recognition:

- For funded projects that include signage, the SCNPS logo must be included in the design to acknowledge our financial support and showcase the positive impact of our grant program on local initiatives.
- Press coverage or promotion should acknowledge SCNPS as a funding source when possible.

Application Details

To apply, applicants must submit an application (maximum of 4 pages) consisting of the following sections:

- **Project Title**
- **Project Location**
 - o If project involves a physical installation, include GPS coordinates or map.
- **Project Contact** (including name, phone number, and email address)
 - o Check mailing address (name, mailing address): If the project is successfully funded, we will issue and mail the check to the check mailing address.
- **Project Description:**
 - o Your project description should provide specific details about your project and address the following:
 - How will the project promote native plants in the Grand Strand region?
 - Who will the project impact and how?
 - o If your project involves the installation of native plants, a preliminary list of species and garden design.
 - Please reach out to us if you need help selecting plants or designing your native plant project.
 - Please refrain from including the names of native plant vendors or local consultants used as part of your grant project. Since we have more than one board member involved in local businesses that support native plants, this will help us prevent any real or perceived bias (see Conflict of Interest statement below for more details). However, we encourage you to reach out to your supplier for updated pricing to make sure your plant budget is appropriate.
- **Detailed Budget**
 - o This should include an overall budget and detail how the grant funds will be used.
 - For example, supplies should be broken down into specific items like mulch or compost.
- **Timeline for completion**
 - o Who will complete the project and approximate project schedule
 - o Description of how the project will be sustained/maintained after installation
- **Letters of support** from identified partners and/or landowners
 - o Letters of support do not count toward the 4 page maximum.
 - o If the project involves installation on property, you must include written permission from landowners (private or public) or explanation (see Project location section above). Applications without permission or explanation of land ownership will not be accepted.
 - o Additional letters of support from community organizations or partners in support of your application are encouraged.

Bonus Points

Bonus points will be awarded for projects that include matching funds, involve two or more partners, and are likely to have high audience engagement (e.g. - the project has high public visibility [community projects] or involves more than one class [school projects].) Please be sure to highlight these elements in your application if applicable.

Grant Review Process

Each application is reviewed by the members of the Grant Committee using a rubric based on the grant announcement details to score each application. The Grant Committee will make recommendations for funding to the Grand Strand Chapter board. The board votes on the Committee's recommendation, and if approved, funds will be distributed to the selected projects.

All grant applicants are notified of the board's decision. For projects that are not funded, the Grant Committee Chair will provide feedback to the applicant in hopes that they will consider reapplying in the future.

Conflict of Interest Statement

Our native plant community is very small and interconnected, and we inevitably have Chapter board members involved directly or indirectly in grant projects. Our board is committed to avoiding any real or perceived conflict of interests when it comes to the review process outlined above. For any grant application in which a member of the Grant Committee or Chapter board has been involved in the planning of the grant, the member will recuse themselves from voting on the application.

Award Amounts

Individual award amounts will not exceed \$1,500. Awards will be given at the discretion of the Grand Strand Chapter Board. For Spring 2025, the Grand Strand Chapter anticipates funding 3 to 4 projects.

Application Deadlines

- Completed applications should be emailed to our Grant Strand Grant Committee Chair at grandstrandgrants@scnps.org by 11:59 p.m. ET on February 10, 2025.
- Grant awardees will be notified by March 10, 2025.

Contact Us

We encourage you to contact us with your ideas/questions about potential grant applications, or if you would like clarification on any of the information presented in this announcement. For inquiries, or to submit your application, please reach out to the Grand Strand Grant Committee Chair Evan D. Cook at grandstrandgrants@scnps.org.