South Carolina Native Plant Society
Lowcountry Chapter Grant Program

The Lowcountry Chapter of the South Carolina Native Plant Society (SCNPS) is pleased to offer our Lowcountry Chapter Grants Program. Part of our mission is to promote native plants through planting, outreach, education, and the removal of invasive, exotic species. Our Lowcountry Chapter Grants Program gives us the ability to support local projects that align with this 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 details and due dates.

Grant Overview & Requirements

Projects must be directed at protecting, restoring, and/or educating the public or students about native plants or plant communities in the Lowcountry of South Carolina. Priority will be given to those projects involving cultural significance, rare species, or the removal of invasive/exotic species. Eligible projects must be located in Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Clarendon, Colleton, Dorchester, or Orangeburg counties. *Grant award amounts will not exceed $750*. Awards will be given at the discretion of the Board of the Lowcountry Chapter of the SCNPS.

Additional requirements for Lowcountry chapter grants are as follows:

- For community projects, if applicant does not own the property, they must provide documentation that permission has been granted by the property owner for the project. *Community project funds are not to be used on personal property or for personal gain.* For school projects, applicants must provide documentation that permission has been granted by the school or district for the project.
- Funds must be used within one year of issuance. After completion, a tour of the project site, presentation about the project during a monthly chapter meeting, or final project report (with photos) is required.
- Applicants may only apply for one project per fiscal year.

Application Details

To apply, applicants must submit an application in one of two ways: through the [Google Form located here](#) or via e-mail to lowcountry.grants@scnps.org. The application should consist of the following sections:

1. **Project Title**
2. **Project Location**
3. **Project Contact** (including name, phone number and e-mail address)
4. **Project Description**, including:
   - Details of proposed project
   - How the project will promote native plants
   - Why the project is needed (who will the project impact and how?)
   - NOTE: we request that applicants 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).
5. **Detailed Budget**
   - This section should include an overall budget, and specifically, *how the SCNPS grant funds you're requesting will be used.*
6. **Timeline for completion**, including:
   - Who will complete the project and approximate project schedule

- o Description of how the project will be sustained/maintained once the grant period ends (one year)
7. **Letters of support** from identified partners and/or landowners
8. **Additional Information Required**: In order to expedite the distribution of funds, we are asking ALL applicants to please include the information below in their application. IF your application is selected for funding, we will notify you and then use these details to award grants:
   - o Name of organization or person to whom the grant check should be made out
   - o Address of location where grant check should be mailed

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].)

Application Deadlines
- Spring
  - o Grant period opens January 1st
  - o Grant applications due by February 10th
  - o Grant awardees notified by March 10th
- Fall
  - o Grant period opens August 1st
  - o Grant applications due by September 10th
  - o Grant awardees notified by October 10th

Contact: We encourage you to reach out if you have ideas/questions about potential grant applications, or if you would like clarification on any of the information presented in this document. For inquiries, or to submit your application, please reach out to Grants Coordinator Matt Johnson at lowcountry.grants@scnps.org.

Additional Information:
- *Grant Review Process*: our chapter board has a four-person grant review committee. These committee members review each grant application independently, using a rubric based on this grant announcement to score each application. The review committee then meets to discuss applications and ultimately makes a recommendation for funding to the full chapter board. The chapter board votes on this recommendation, and if approved, the grant committee then works with the chapter and state treasurer to disburse grant checks. All grant applicants are notified of the board's decision. For projects that are not funded, the Grants Coordinator will provide feedback to the applicant in case they would like to reapply in the future.
- *Conflict of Interest Statement*: Our native plant community is small and interconnected, and we inevitably have board members involved directly or indirectly in grant projects. Our board is committed to avoiding any real or perceived Conflict of Interest when it comes to the review process outlined above. To that end, the following guidelines are followed by our board when reviewing and approving grants:
  - o For any grant application in which a member of the grants committee or chapter board has been involved in the planning of the grant, the member will recuse themselves from voting on the application.
  - o Chapter board members cannot write grant applications or directly receive grant funds.