



## 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 Grants Program. Part of our mission is to promote native plants through planting, outreach, education, and the removal of invasive 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 requirements and due dates.

### **Grant Overview & Application 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. Eligible projects must be located in one of the following counties: Bamberg, Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Clarendon, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, Jasper, or Orangeburg. *The maximum grant award is \$1,000.* 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 the applicant does not own the property, they must provide documentation from the owner that permission has been granted. *Community project funds cannot 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.
- Funds must be used within one year of issuance. To help us support your grant project and promote your project efforts, grant recipients are asked to provide a 6-month progress report and a one-year final report. The reports will be simple online Google Forms to answer a few questions and provide an opportunity to share photos of your project. We also would like to use the information provided in the reports to promote your project through our community outreach programs and promotional materials about the work of the Chapter.
- Applicants may apply for only one project per fiscal year.

### **Project Suggestions**

Over the last several years, our chapter has supported a variety of projects related to native plants.

Below are some suggested areas of focus for our native plant grants:

- Installing (or adding to) a native plant garden or medicinal garden
- Removing exotic and invasive species from a garden, park, or community space
- Green infrastructure projects, including rain gardens, bioswales, stormwater pond buffers, and living shorelines
- Research projects related to native plants or native plant communities
- Native plant projects related to resilience, including restoration of habitats, addressing saltwater intrusion, and reforestation
- Signage, curricula, and other educational materials related to educating the public and/or students about native plants
- Meetings, workshops, and other training programs that educate audiences about native plants

This is not a complete list; if you have ideas for projects not related to the above focus areas, we'd love to hear them!

### **Application Details**

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

- 1. Project Title**
- 2. Project Location**
- 3. Project Contact** (including name, phone number and e-mail address)
- 4. Project Description**, including:
  - o Details of proposed project
  - o How the project will promote native plants
  - o Why the project is needed (who will the project impact and how?)
  - o 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**
  - o This section should include an overall budget, and specifically, *how the SCNPS grant funds you're requesting will be used.*
  - o Reminder: the maximum grant award is \$1,000.
- 6. Timeline for completion**, including:
  - o 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 1<sup>st</sup>
  - o Grant applications due by February 10<sup>th</sup>
  - o Grant awardees notified by March 10<sup>th</sup>

- o 6-month progress report by September 30th
- o Final report by March 31st the following year
- Fall
  - o Grant period opens August 1<sup>st</sup>
  - o Grant applications due by September 10<sup>th</sup>
  - o Grant awardees notified by October 10<sup>th</sup>
  - o 6-month progress report by April 30th
  - o Final report by October 31st the following year

### **Contact Us:**

We encourage you to reach out if you have ideas/questions about potential projects, 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](mailto:lowcountry.grants@scnps.org).

### **Additional Information:**

- *Grant Review Process:* our chapter board has a three-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.