

# Grand Strand Chapter Grant Program

## Spring 2026



The Grand Strand Chapter of the South Carolina Native Plant Society (SCNPS) is pleased to announce our Spring 2026 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. All applications must be submitted through [this Google Form link](#), with supplemental documents being sent in PDF format to [grandstrandgrants@scnps.org](mailto:grandstrandgrants@scnps.org), as detailed below.

### **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, as outlined in the application. Projects on personal property or for personal financial gain will not be considered.

#### *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](http://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.

### **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 or would otherwise benefit from the project, the member will recuse themselves from reviewing and voting on that grant application. Current Chapter board and Grant Committee members are not permitted to be a grant applicant.

### **Application Deadlines**

Applications should be submitted via [the online Google form](#) by 11:59 p.m. ET on February 28, 2026. If your application requires supplemental documents like property owner permission or project plans, documents must be emailed to the Grand Strand Grant Committee Chair at [grandstrandgrants@scnps.org](mailto:grandstrandgrants@scnps.org) by 11:59 p.m. ET on February 28, 2026. No late applications will be accepted.

### **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 2026, the Grand Strand Chapter anticipates funding three to four projects.

Grant awardees will be notified by March 31, 2026.

### **Application Details**

To apply, applicants must submit an application by completing [this Google form](#) and emailing additional documentation as detailed. Please complete the prompts as indicated and send additional information as requested to [grandstrandgrants@scnps.org](mailto:grandstrandgrants@scnps.org).

We strongly encourage applicants to prepare their application in a word processing software and not in the online application form. To help you prepare your application, we've copied all questions from the online Google form application below for your reference.

1. Project Title
2. Project Location: Street Address or GPS coordinates
  - a. If a project involves a physical installation, include a physical address or GPS coordinates.
3. Which county will the project be located in?
4. Permission to Implement Project:
  - a. You must demonstrate that you have permission to implement your project by emailing the information requested below to: [grandstrandgrants@scnps.org](mailto:grandstrandgrants@scnps.org).
  - b. 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.
  - c. For school projects: Applicants must provide documentation that permission has been granted by the school for the project.
5. Project Contact Name
6. Organization Name (optional)
7. Project Contact Phone Number
8. Project Contact Email Address
9. Amount Requested
10. Partial Funding: Would partial funding be helpful to your project?
  - a. In certain situations, a project may be considered for partial funding instead of full funding. Partial funding means your project will receive a portion of the funds you have requested and not the entire amount, with the remainder of the funds to complete your project needing to come from another source, such as your organization, another grant, donor, etc. Your answer to this question will not negatively impact your application.
  - b. Please remember, partial funding is designated for your identified project and cannot be used for other purposes. Receipt of partial funding may result in your organization needing to pay the difference in funds for the completion of your project. Receiving partial funding follows the same rules and reporting as receiving full funding. If you have any questions or need further clarification, please contact Lucy Contreras at [grandstrandgrants@scnps.org](mailto:grandstrandgrants@scnps.org).
11. Check Mailing Address

- a. Include street address, city, state, and zip code. If the project is successfully funded, we will issue and mail the check to the check mailing address.
12. Check Payee
  - a. If the project is successfully funded, we will make the check out to the person or organization you enter below.

#### Project Description Questions

While there are no word counts for these questions, we expect responses to these questions to be about 1-3 paragraphs.

1. Please explain your proposed project, including why the project is significant, who it will impact, and how.
2. How will the project promote native plants in the Grand Strand region (e.g. through planting a pollinator garden, educating about native plants, or removing invasive, exotic species)?
3. Garden design/species list: If your project involves the installation of native plants, please provide a preliminary list of species and a written description of your garden design. An image or sketch of your garden design is optional and can be emailed with additional application materials to: [grandstrandgrants@scnps.org](mailto:grandstrandgrants@scnps.org).
  - a. If this does not apply to your project, please put "N/A" or "Does not apply."
  - b. Please reach out to us if you need help selecting plants or designing your native plant project.
  - c. 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 for more details). However, we encourage you to reach out to your supplier for updated pricing to make sure your plant budget is appropriate.
4. Budget Narrative
  - a. 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 with cost. You may also submit a spreadsheet with the additional application materials to: [grandstrandgrants@scnps.org](mailto:grandstrandgrants@scnps.org) in lieu of including it in this form. If you are emailing this document, please indicate so in the text box of this question.
5. Financial Need
  - a. Please indicate if your organization would be financially able to complete the proposed project if your grant is not selected to be funded.
6. Timeline for Completion:
  - a. Please indicate who will complete the project and the approximate project schedule.
7. Project Longevity: Please describe how the project will be sustained/maintained after installation.
8. Matching Funds:
  - a. Does your project include any matching funds? If so, please elaborate.

**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 additional application materials, please reach out to the Grand Strand Grant Committee Chair Lucy Contreras at [grandstrandgrants@scnps.org](mailto:grandstrandgrants@scnps.org).