



## Champions of the Environment Grant Application Help Sheet

- The Champions of the Environment Partnership awards grants to environmental projects that are logical and well planned, and that have the potential to be implemented to meet the project goals.
- This is a competitive grant program. A limited number of projects will receive funding.
- Projects seeking funding through a Champions' grant are evaluated on the degree to which they satisfy the following criteria:
  - Benefits to the environment – positive outcomes for the environment through one issue or cumulatively through multiple issues
  - Sustainability / long-term environmental benefits – ability to sustain the project and/or sustain the environmental benefit or education gained through the project
  - Student education – learning opportunities
  - Student involvement – as appropriate for the age, skill level of the students
  - Outreach – education (and involvement) of those involved with and outside the project - including students, school, parents or the community
  - Realization factor – likelihood of completion
  - Suitable Use of Funds – funds used on items that support the goal(s) of the project
  - Consideration is also given to innovation and creativity, and partnerships
- Also consider when filling out a Champions' grant application:
  - Please note that you cannot save a completed copy of the electronic form on your computer.
  - Type the answers in another document and then paste them into the Champions application.
  - However, tabbed text may not align correctly if pasted into the form.
  - Ask a colleague to read over your application- they may have some good suggestions or catch any remaining typos before you submit it.
  - Please read the statements at the end of the application and agree to the information by entering your initials before submitting it.
  - You will have the option to print a copy of the completed application after you submit it.
  - The printed application will include an application submission number. Please keep this number for future reference.

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The comments that follow (**in bold**) are intended to give guidance as you prepare answers for the narrative section of the Champions' grant application.

**Applicants that educate K-12 students in South Carolina outside of a formal school setting should consider partnering with a school group, classroom, teacher, or student.**

1a. Environmental issue - On which of the following environmental issues will you be working?

**Answer Yes or No for each question.**

1b. Environmental benefits - Briefly describe the expected short term and long term environmental benefits.

**We are looking for a brief description of how your project will benefit the environment over both the short term and the long term. You can expand on this under item 2. "goals of the project." You may start with a brief statement about the need for your project.**

2. List the goals of the project.

**This is a place to set forth the goals of your project. You may find that you are incorporating information from some of the other items in this section, that's OK.**

**Goals are what you want to accomplish environmentally, and for the students involved, and any others educated through the project. Your goals should be achievable. You may even want to generate some quantitative goals for the project to accomplish.**

3. Description of project – tell us how the project will be carried out. (Who does what?)

**We want to learn about the student involvement in the project. Students do not need to do all the work, but we must be able to see how they are part of the project.**

4. What will you do to ensure that the students involved have learned from this experience?

**What method(s) will be used to assess student involvement and education? Surveys, journals, lesson plans that correlate to science standards, etc.**

5. Describe the outreach plan for this project. Whom will you target (e.g. students, parents, community members) and how will you reach them?

**Your project may target only the students directly involved in the project. However, to increase the leverage of your project we like to see a method to inform and instruct others outside the project about actions that can preserve and protect the environment.**

6a. Budget – tell us how you plan to spend the Major Award of \$2,000.

**We prefer to see a list of expenses to be covered by the \$2,000. An itemized budget is useful though exact amounts are not necessary.**

6b. What could you accomplish with a smaller Merit or Seedling Award of up to \$750?

**Each year we receive more applications than we can award. Some of those applications come very close to being awarded. To give these applicants a helping hand we may give out smaller cash awards to a number of "runner-up" projects. What aspects of the proposed project could you still complete with a smaller award of up to \$750?**

7. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the project? (e.g. partners, volunteers, donations, etc.)

**You may put in your own thoughts or additional information here including other environmental projects already underway that may complement the proposed project, donations that have been/will be made, any partners that have committed to help, or volunteers who bring something extra to the project. You may also include whether there is a special reason for engaging in the activities of the project.**

