

Rotary eClub of Silicon Valley Min-e-Grant Program

As a service club, we are constantly looking for ways to reach out to our communities to help in as many ways as we are able. Sometimes this happens via giving a little of our own time and resources, and sometimes we work with our fellow club members to bring a greater set of talents and energy to a noble cause. What I hope we are all doing regularly is keeping an eye out for something noble we can support, and this project represents one way we can leap forward with a way to make that support tangible.

The Min-e-Grants Program

This program is designed to help members choose worthy projects to support through what we call, "min-e-grants." Figuring out how to do this well is an ongoing process, and we'll be looking for your suggestions to make this effort the best it can be.

The basic idea is to allow any member in good standing the opportunity to identify a project in his or her community to which we can donate up to \$250. *The amount of money requested must be matched by another Rotary club or nonprofit organization (not the benefitting organization).* The hope is that we will be able to get our members more actively involved in service within their communities, and that this might further give us a new avenue for connecting with each other.

Required Components for Proposals

The application is not particularly complex, and is made of one set of required items, and a second set of a few encouraged components. Let's

cover each piece:

Your Name: We're hoping this part comes easily. If you need help on this one, check with family or reliable friends.

Email Address: Presumably, this will be the same one we use for club correspondence.

Project Blurb: Go with something descriptive here, such as, "community garden for senior citizens' center," or, "drinking water well for local village" - it should make it immediately obvious what the club is being asked to support. As the examples above show, this does not need to be a full sentence.

Project Summary: The proposals the committee decides to fund will be presented to the club, so those making proposals are asked to provide two-three sentences summarizing what will happen in the project.

Proposal: This is the narrative and the longest part, as you'll need to describe the need for the project, the objectives, and a plan (the more detailed, the greater the chance it would be chosen). How long should it be? Long enough so that those reading the proposal will understand the what, why, when, where, and how of the project. Additionally, one should explain whether/how the effort will survive after the current project funds are spent. The member should explain what his or her role will be in the project (the more active, the better).

Connection to the eClub's Focus: Our eclub has a special focus on innovation, entrepreneurship, and education. If this proposal speaks to one or more of these items, please tell how.

Budget: The member seeking a min-e-grant should provide details on expenditures for the project, including what the grant funds will be used

for, and how other sources of funding will contribute to the project. A match from a partnering organization of requested funds is required.

Partner Club/Organization: While some grants will provide a match to funds raised by non-Rotary organizations, it is the board's hope that the min-e-grants will help foster collaboration with other clubs, extending our ability to serve effectively. The member will provide the name of the partnering Rotary club or other organization, along with the names, email addresses, and phone numbers of at least two members of that organization. Note: 1) There must be a partner organization that is not the one being funded. 2) This third-party partner must provide a match of the funds being requested.

Report: Once the project is in motion and/or finished, the member will report in one of the club's weekly meetings to help the full club understand how we are helping with the effort in that member's community. You will need to plan and present the program for one of our weekly meetings, recorded normally using a video conferencing tool.

What follows is not required, but instead is highly encouraged. Recognizing that the club will not choose to fund every proposal, a member should seek to address as many of the following pieces as possible to optimize chances for having his or her proposal selected.

eClub Colleague: List any other member of our club who will take part. Proposals that involve multiple members of the club will be given preference, though it is recognized that it may be quite difficult in some circumstances to get another member of the club actively involved. If you are considering putting in a proposal, you are encouraged to contact other members to discuss ways of working together.

Rotary Contacts: While one may work with non-Rotary organizations, preference will be given to those proposals which involve at least one

other Rotary club.

Submitting a Proposal

As you'll see in the form for the proposals, you also agree not to contact any members of the min-e-grant group to discuss your proposal. Those volunteering their time do so out of a desire to serve, and should not have to navigate extra information that hasn't been included in the original proposal. In short, the proposal is the height, width, and breadth of what will be considered - make sure you have it as you want it before you submit it.

Additionally, the form is done in a tool that does not allow you to save as you go. Consequently, it is a VERY good idea to have all your text ready to go and saved separately. When you are ready to submit it, copy and paste each answer into the corresponding blanks in the form.

The committee will try to respond to every proposal within two to three weeks.

Ready to see the form? If so, [click here](#). You can also find the form via this shortcut: tinyurl.com/eCSVmin-e-grant

Make our club proud!
