



EXPLORE THE COAST GRANT 2026-2027 APPLICATION

Released November 2025

Contact Information	
Organization	
Contact Person	
Title	
Email	
Phone	
Address	
Social Media (and/or webpage, if applicable)	
Project Information	
Project Name (6 words or less)	
Amount Requested	
Total Project Cost	
Estimated Start Date	
Estimated End Date	
Is this a new project for your organization, or is this an existing project? (does not have to be SCC funded)	
Location Information	
What specific facility(ies) will the project use/visit? (e.g., Santa Monica Pier, Stinson)	

Beach, Point Reyes National Seashore)	
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Directions: Please read and answer each question carefully. Each question has a **suggested** length. Please review this [Example Applicant Tables document](#) to help you fill out the tables in the application. Please do not delete the questions. For guidance on using Artificial Intelligence (AI), please review the AI guidelines in the RFP instructions. Please note that the maximum page limit is 16 pages.

Project Summary and Overview. In the next three questions, provide a detailed description of the proposed project.

1. What?

- a. Explain your project. Walk through the participants' experience for each type of activity. Provide a bullet list of key project activities and walk through a typical day for a project participant.

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- b. Specify the number of trips/events and the estimated number of participants per trip/event. If the project will involve different types of trips/events, provide this information separately for each type of trip/event.

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- c. Describe how the project provides enjoyable and/or healing experiences at the coast. (Suggested 1 paragraph)

2. Who? Describe the ETC Priority Community¹ being served, including where they live. (Suggested 1 paragraph)

¹ **ETC Priority Communities** may include but are not limited to lower-income individuals and households, people with disabilities, people of color, indigenous communities, immigrant communities, foster youth, and other historically excluded communities who face societal challenges or barriers to accessing or enjoying the coast.

3. **How?** Explain any economic, physical, or societal barriers the community(ies) faces in accessing or enjoying the coast and how the project will address those barriers. (Suggested 1 paragraph)
4. **ETC Priority Communities Served.** The ETC grant program provides coastal experiences to communities who face challenges accessing or enjoying the coast. Please help us better understand which community(ies) the project will serve by filling out the table below to the extent you are able. If individuals fall under several categories, you can count them in all of the categories they fall under. Do not enter participant numbers as ranges. Tables should only include numbers, no text. [Participant summary table examples can be found here](#).

Summary Numbers (enter as a whole number, no ranges)	Estimated # of Participants	Estimated # of Participants from ETC Communities
Total Number of Unique Participants Served ²		
Are there repeat participants? If no, leave blank.	☐ Yes	
Total Number of Participant Experiences (Add up the estimated number of participants for each planned trip and put the total here.)		

*Number of participants from ETC Priority Communities **must be 70% or more of total participants**

In the following table, calculate the number of participants by counting each individual based on the number of times they participate.

ETC Priority Communities Numbers (enter as a whole number, no ranges)	Estimated # of Unique Participants
People of Color	
Black	
Asian/Pacific Islander	
Latinx	
Indigenous	
Multi-Racial	
Other non-white ethnicities, please specify:	

² **Unique Participants**- refers to the distinct, individual people involved in an activity, event, or system, counting each person only once regardless of how many times they participate

Other communities facing barriers accessing or enjoying the coast	
Low-income	
People with Physical Disabilities	
People with Cognitive or Emotional Disabilities	
English as Second Language Learners	
Foster and Unhoused Youth	
LGBTQ+	
Criminal justice system impacted individuals	
Veterans	
Other, please specify:	
Source for the above information:	

Regions of the State (refer to map attached in the instructions document)	Estimated # of Participants from Each Region
Region 1, North Coast	
Region 2, Far North	
Region 3, Bay Area	
Region 4, Sacramento Valley & Sierras	
Region 5, Central Coast	
Region 6, San Joaquin Valley	
Region 7, South Coast	
Region 8, Inland Southern California and Deserts	

5. **Participant Outreach.** Please explain how you will meaningfully engage with and recruit participants from the ETC Priority Communities you are serving with your project. (Suggested 1 paragraph)

6. **Cultural Inclusivity.** Describe how your project considers participants' differences in cultural and social backgrounds, past experiences, knowledge, comfort levels, etc. when participating in project activities. Do staff have lived experience or training to be culturally inclusive? (Suggested 1 paragraph)

7. **Ability Inclusivity.** Describe how your project will serve people with physical, cognitive, or emotional disabilities. If your project is not specifically serving those priority communities, provide details on how you will address the inclusion and accommodation of such participants should they wish to participate (for example, accessible facilities, appropriately trained staff, alternate activities). (Suggested 1 paragraph)

8. **Post-Project Impacts.** Describe the long-term positive impacts that the project leaves on participants. This can include components that build participants’ confidence or understanding of themselves, learning new skills, leadership development opportunities, post project participant engagement, family or support system involvement, peer-to-peer mentorship, or solutions to overcome ongoing coastal access barriers. As a reminder, the project cannot have non-coastal activities after the coastal trips are complete; for more information, see the ETC Application TA Resource. (Suggested 1 paragraph)

9. **Community Leadership.** Describe how your organization promotes leadership within the community served through partnerships and leadership roles. For example, individuals from the community(ies) being served by the project are involved in its management, development, or implementation. (Suggested 1 paragraph)

10. **Project Scope.** In the following table, *briefly* summarize the work involved for each of the tasks provided (project management, project preparation, and project implementation). [A Project Scope example can be found here](#). *Please be concise, a more detailed explanation of activities should be provided in the first few questions of this application.*

Project Scope	Description	Start Date (MM/YR)	End Date (MM/YR)
Project Management	List specific tasks/activities related to the project, grant management, and project evaluation.		
Project Preparation	List specific tasks/activities related to the project preparation, such as participant outreach, coordination with project partners, staff training, other logistical activities.		

Project Scope	Description	Start Date (MM/YR)	End Date (MM/YR)
Project Implementation	List the number and types of coastal experiences offered and clarify how many participants will be served by each type of coastal experience.		

11. Budget. Complete one of the two budget tables (Option 1: Budget by Task OR Option 2: Budget by Cost Category)– whichever is easiest for you – and a corresponding budget narrative response below. You can delete the other table. Please round all numbers up to the nearest **\$100 dollars**. Below the selected budget table option, **provide the information requested in the Budget Narrative** instructions. Please note that indirect costs cannot be more than 20% of the total grant amount. Please see our [Allowable Costs document](#) to understand what costs can be covered with this grant. [Budget table examples can be found here](#).

Option 1- Budget By Task (complete **Budget Task Table** and **Budget Task Narrative**)

Budget Task Table If you choose the Budget By Task option, we strongly recommend you use the three tasks we have defined. Include a separate line item for indirect costs.

Conservancy Grant Budget	Coastal Conservancy Funds
Costs by Task	
Task 1: Project Management	\$0
Task 2: Project Preparation	\$0
Task 3: Project Implementation	\$0
Task 4 (add additional rows if needed)	\$0
Subtotal Tasks	\$0
Administrative Costs (if applicable)	
Indirect Costs	\$0
Fiscal Sponsorship Fee	\$0
Subtotal Administration Costs	\$0
CONSERVANCY GRANT TOTAL	\$0
Other Funding Total	\$0
Total Project Cost	\$0
Your organization's approximate annual operating budget	\$0

Budget Task Narrative Please provide an approximate breakdown of the Project Implementation cost by these four categories: 1) Labor, 2) Equipment & Supplies, 3) Transportation, and 4) Other. For each of the categories 2-4, describe the main items contributing to the costs. (Refer to the [budget table example](#))

Option 2 - Budget By Cost Category (complete **Budget Cost Table** and **Budget Cost Narrative**)

Budget Cost Table If you choose the Budget By Cost Category option, we strongly recommend you use the following cost category we have defined.

Conservancy Grant Budget	Coastal Conservancy Funds
Personnel Costs (Labor)	\$0
Equipment & Supplies	\$0
Subcontractors	\$0
Indirect Costs	\$0
Fiscal Sponsorship Fee	\$0
CONSERVANCY GRANT TOTAL	\$0
Other Funding Total	\$0
Total Project Cost	\$0
Your organization's approximate annual operating budget	\$0

Budget Cost Narrative Estimate the percentage of personnel costs spent on project management and initiation versus delivery of programming. Summarize main Equipment & Supplies costs that are anticipated, including transportation costs. Summarize role of subcontractors. (Refer to the [budget table example](#))

12. **Cost to Participants.** Describe costs, if any, to participants in your project. Identify whether grant funding would enable the project to be free or subsidized. If your project provides participants subsidies or scholarships, please describe how participants are selected to receive them. (Suggested 1 paragraph)

13. Other Funding. In addition to potential Conservancy funding, what other funds or in-kind donations support your project? (Please note that matching funds or in-kind donations are not a requirement to be granted Conservancy funding). (Suggested 1 paragraph)

14. Applicant capacity. Briefly describe your organizational capacity to implement the project.

Questions	Response
When was your organization established?	YYYY
How large is your organization?	(Number of staff, paid or unpaid)

Question	What is your organization's and/or staff experience in administering grants of similar sizes and completing similar projects?
Response	- Ex. Executive Director: 5 years of environmental programming experience - Ex. Received \$X,XXX.00 of grant in the past
Question	Do you work with any partners on this project?
Response	If yes, please provide bullet list of partner organizations and their role: Ex. Partner Organization: (Role)
Question	Has this project been implemented prior to this grant application? If so, how long has the project been running. If this is a new project, explain any similar projects you have implemented. NOTE: a project does not need to have been previously funded by SCC's ETC Grant Program to be considered an existing project. (Suggested 1 paragraph)
Response	

Application Checklist

- ☐ **Completed Explore the Coast Grant application.** Submit your grant application to grants@scc.ca.gov by 11:59 p.m. PST on January 30, 2026.
- ☐ **Supplemental Documents (Highly Encouraged).** Applicants are welcome to attach 3 relevant photos (preferably as jpg) with their application submission; these attachments

should not exceed 10MB total. Please use the following file types only: jpg, png, pdf, doc, docx. Letters of recommendation are not required at this time and will not be reviewed. If your project is recommended for funding, we will then request that you submit two letters of recommendation.

- ☐ **Copy of your organization's IRS 501(c)(3) letter.** All nonprofit organizations, including fiscal sponsors, need to provide a copy of the organization's IRS 501(c)(3) letter.

Please only attach photos, maps, or other materials with this application in which either (1) you own the copyright, trademark, or have some other ownership rights in the materials, or (2) you have permission to use and have the authority to grant the Conservancy the permission to use such materials for non-commercial purposes. If you are attaching photos, maps, or other materials, please confirm the following statement:

- ☐ I hereby confirm that I own the copyright, trademark, or have some other ownership rights in the materials or otherwise have permission to use and have authority to grant the Conservancy permission to use such materials, and I hereby grant to the Conservancy the unlimited right to use such materials for non-commercial purposes.

Application Survey

After completing the ETC Grant application, please take some time to provide feedback on your experience as an applicant. Responses will be collected anonymously. The survey link can be accessed [here](#). The Conservancy aims to improve our grant application process yearly and your feedback is valued.

[Take the Survey](#)