



Funding Research Memo: Environmental Education

Last updated: July 2016

THIS MEMO WILL BE UPDATED PERIODICALLY. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING RESOURCES, PLEASE CONTACT THE SNC FUND DEVELOPMENT TEAM AT snCFundingTeam@sierranevada.ca.gov.

CAVEAT – Grant guidelines and deadlines are subject to periodic change. Please note the last date this memo was updated and check the program web sites for new information. The deadlines listed are projected from previous funding rounds and may not be accurate. Check the web sites!

Funding Summary Table

(*Hyperlinks to more complete information below, including links to program websites.)

Grant	Funding Range	Funding Focus	Estimated Deadline	Eligible Costs
CA State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Fee Grant Program	\$200,000 for planning, \$400,000 for implementation. No match required	Prevent infestation of Quagga and Zebra mussels in un-infested reservoirs which are open to the public for recreational activities.	March	Planning and implementation programs to prevent infestation of Quagga and Zebra mussels in un-infested reservoirs. Can include development and improvement of plans and vulnerability assessments, evaluation of existing prevention programs, monitoring, and public education signage.
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Environmental Literacy Grants Program	\$250,000 – 500,000	To increase the understanding and use of environmental information to promote stewardship and increase informed decision-making by U.S. educators, students, and the public.	February	Staff costs, travel, materials, evaluation, contractors, etc.

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Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Education Local Grants	Up to \$91,000. 25% non-federal match required.	Projects that design, demonstrate, and/or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, or techniques that will serve to increase environmental literacy and encourage behavior that will benefit the environment in local communities.	April	<p>Environmental education funds <u>cannot</u> be used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical training of environmental management professionals • Environmental “information” and/or “outreach” projects that have no additional educational component • Advocacy promoting a particular point of view or course of action • Lobbying or political activities • Non-educational research and development • Construction projects <p>Grant recipients are required to award exactly 25% (no more and no less) of the funds received from EPA to eligible sub-recipients in the form of sub-grants of \$5,000 or less.</p>
EPA/National Fish and Wildlife Foundation 5 Star Restoration	\$20,000 to \$50,000. Substantial match required.	Environmental education and training through projects that restore wetlands and streams.	February	Acquisition or development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Includes on-the-ground activities, integrated education, community involvement, and partnership development.
The American Honda Foundation	\$20,000 - \$75,000	Youth education with a specific focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) subjects in addition to the environment, job training, and literacy.	February, May, and August	No specifics are provided as to the types of costs that are covered.
Captain Planet Foundation	\$500 - \$2,500. 1:1 match is preferred.	Project-based activities performed by youth with real environmental outcomes.	September and January	Project-based environmental education.
Waste Management Corporate Giving Program	Not stated	Environmental education targeted at middle and high school students, including environmental and science-related projects, science fairs, Earth Day projects, and others.	Rolling	The agency prefers not to support operating costs, capital campaigns, or multiyear requests, and will definitely not fund travel or endowments.

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Rose Foundation for the Community and the Environment	Usually around \$5,000	Supporting small-scale organizations in conducting environmental improvements in Northern California.	Multiple	Community-based advocacy, technical assistance, litigation, restoration projects, organizing expenses, grassroots campaigns, and environmental education.
The Strong Foundation for Environmental Values	\$2,000 - \$5,000. No match required.	Programs and education supporting ecological ethics in individuals and communities, and grassroots environmental action.	February and September	Program planning, implementation, education, training, capacity building, citizen participation, and land acquisition.
New Belgium Brewing Company	\$2,500 – \$10,000	Youth environmental education projects (K-12) which apply an interdisciplinary approach, influence positive behavior change, experientially engage students in the outdoors, and incorporate a comprehensive curriculum tied to national and state learning standards.	Feb - March	Funds may <u>not</u> be used for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conferences, conventions, or workshops • Fundraising events, music festivals, film festivals, or cultural events • Production of films or other media-related projects • General operations
The Cedar Tree Foundation	\$20,000 - \$100,000	Sustainable agriculture, environmental education, and environmental health.	Rolling; however, no applications are being accepted in 2016.	The foundation makes both general support and project support grants. It does not support endowments or capital requests.
The Campbell Foundation	Up to \$25,000	Environmental education, outreach regarding water quality.	Twice a year	Outreach, education, and action programs related to water quality
The Melinda Gray Ardia Environmental Foundation	Up to \$1,500	Supporting educators in developing and implementing holistic environmental curricula that incorporates basic ecological principles, problem solving, and integration of field activities and classroom teaching.	August for pre-proposals	Development and implementation of environmental education curricula.

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Grant	Funding Range	Funding Focus	Estimated Deadline	Eligible Costs
Johnson Ohana Charitable Foundation	\$5,000 to \$25,000. No match required.	Organizations that actively engage youth and/or volunteers in projects that provide measurable benefit to the environment and/or the community.	Rolling	Grants can be directed to specific programs or to general operating expenses.
Califa: Public Libraries Advancing Community Engagement	\$1,000	The goal of this program is for libraries to play a significant role in increasing a community's climate resiliency.	August	Successful applicants receive \$1,000 plus access to public program materials, professional development, ongoing programming support, and an online peer-to-peer community.



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CA State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Fee Grant Program

<http://www.dbw.ca.gov/Funding/QZGrant.aspx>

Since 2013 the Department of Parks and Recreation, Division of Boating and Waterways, has been collecting a “quagga and zebra mussel infestation prevention fee.” These funds are available to eligible managers and owners of reservoirs that are open to the public and NOT infested with these mussels. Grants can cover planning/assessment projects or implementation/construction projects. Outreach and educational materials and signage are eligible costs. The 2016 deadline was in March.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Environmental Literacy Grants (ELG) Program

<http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/grants/>

The ELG Program is a competitive program that supports formal and informal education projects implemented on regional to national scales. The ELG Program’s primary mission is to increase the understanding and use of environmental information to promote stewardship and increase informed decision-making by U.S. educators, students, and the public. All projects must actively engage participants in learning and addressing real-world issues. They should also strengthen the public’s and/or K-12 students’ environmental literacy in order to enable informed decision-making necessary for community resilience to extreme weather events and other environmental hazards. Applications should clearly demonstrate how target audiences will be actively engaged in project activities. All projects emphasize partnerships that facilitate network building, integrate NOAA data and other resources into education programs, and encourage participation by audiences traditionally underserved and underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. Projects should build the environmental literacy necessary for community resilience by focusing on geographic awareness and an understanding of Earth systems and the threats and vulnerabilities that are associated with a community’s location.

Eligible applicants for this funding opportunity are limited to institutions of higher education; other nonprofits, including informal education institutions such as museums, zoos, and aquariums; K-12 public and independent schools and school systems; and state, local, and Indian tribal governments in the United States.

The funding limit is \$250,000 to \$500,000. No match is required. Applications are generally due in February.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Education Local Grants

<http://www2.epa.gov/education/environmental-education-ee-grants>

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The purpose of this program is to support environmental education projects that promote environmental awareness and stewardship, and help provide people with the skills to take responsible actions to protect the environment. Projects that receive awards must design, demonstrate, and/or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, and techniques.

All proposals must address at least one of the following education priorities:

- Environmental education capacity-building
- Educational advancement
- Community projects
- Human health and the environment
- Environmental education teaching skills
- Career development

All proposals must also address at least one of the following environmental priorities:

- Addressing climate change and improving air quality
- Taking action on toxics and chemical safety
- Making a visible difference in communities across the country
- Protecting water: a precious, limited resource
- Launching a new era of state, tribal, and local partnerships

In addition, all proposals must address one or more of the following strategic goals of the funding agency:

- Addressing climate change and improving air quality
- Protecting America's waters
- Cleaning up communities and advancing sustainable development
- Ensuring the safety of chemicals and preventing pollution
- Protecting human health and the environment by enforcing laws and assuring compliance

Eligible applicants include any local education agency, college or university, state education or environmental agency, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, tribal education entity, or a noncommercial educational broadcasting entity. The maximum award is \$91,000. A 25 percent match is required. Grant recipients are required to award exactly 25 percent (no more and no less) of the funds received from EPA to eligible sub-recipients in the form of sub-grants of \$5,000 or less. The deadline is 2016 was in April.

EPA Five Star Restoration Grant Program

http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/wetlands/restore/index.cfm

The Five Star Restoration Program brings together students, conservation corps, other youth groups, citizen groups, corporations, landowners, and government agencies to provide environmental education and training through projects that restore wetlands and

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streams. The program focuses on the stewardship and restoration of coastal, wetland, and riparian ecosystems across the country. Its goal is to meet the conservation needs of important species and habitats, providing measurable and meaningful conservation and educational outcomes.

The program provides challenge grants, technical support, and opportunities for information exchange to enable community-based restoration projects. Grants range from \$20,000 to \$50,000. Eligible applicants include 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, state government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, Native American tribes, and educational institutions.

Competitive proposals should address each of the five priorities:

- On-the-ground restoration and planning
- Partnerships
- Environmental outreach, education, and training
- Measurable results
- Sustainability

The American Honda Foundation

<http://www.honda.com/community/applying-for-a-grant>

American Honda Foundation was established by American Honda Motor Co., Inc. to help meet the needs of American society in the areas of youth and scientific education by awarding grants to nonprofits, while strategically assisting communities in deriving long-term benefits. The funding priority is youth education, specifically in the areas of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, the environment, job training, and literacy.

The foundation is interested in programs and organizations with a well-defined sense of purpose, demonstrated commitment to making the best use of available resources, and a reputation for accomplishing their objectives. In addition, programs should:

- Be innovative and creative, proposing untried methods which ultimately may result in providing solutions to the complex educational concerns currently facing American society
- Have a broad scope, intent, impact, and outreach
- Possess a high potential for success with a relatively low incidence of duplication of effort (i.e., other organizations administering the same programs)
- Be dedicated to improving the human condition of all mankind
- Operate from a position of financial and administrative soundness
- Have an urgent need for funding, based on the relative importance of the program or project to the public (not necessarily financial need)

To be considered for funding, organizations which have annual gross revenue of over \$500,000 must submit two years of audited financial statements. If gross revenue is less

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than \$500,000 and the organization does not have audits, it may submit two years of financial statements accompanied by an independent Certified Public Accountant's review report instead.

Grants range from \$20,000 to \$75,000. Deadlines for new organizations are February 1 and August 1. For returning organizations, the deadline is May 1.

Captain Planet Foundation

<http://captainplanetfoundation.org/apply-for-grants/>

Grants from the Captain Planet Foundation are intended to:

- Provide hands-on environmental stewardship opportunities for youth
- Serve as a catalyst to getting environment-based education in schools
- Inspire youth and communities to participate in community service through environmental stewardship activities

Grants are made for activities that conform to the mission of the Captain Planet Foundation and **MUST** have all three of the following to be considered for funding:

- Be project-based
- Projects must be performed by youth.
- Projects must have real environmental outcomes.

Captain Planet Foundation will accept small grant requests for amounts between \$500 and \$2,500. The Foundation primarily makes grants to U.S.-based schools and organizations with an annual operating budget of less than \$3 million.

Preferential consideration is given to requests from organizations that have secured at least 50 percent matching or in-kind funding for their projects. (Projects with matching funds or in-kind support are given priority because external funding is a good indicator of the potential for long-term sustainability of the activities.) Captain Planet Foundation may choose to fund a portion of the project budget that best fits within the foundation guidelines, or contact an applicant for further discussion.

Deadlines are September 30, typically for spring and summer projects, and January 31, typically for fall and winter projects. Eligible applicants are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations.

Waste Management Corporate Giving Program

<http://www.wm.com/about/community/charitable-giving.jsp>

The purpose of this program is to support causes that promote civic pride, economic development, and revitalization. The funding agency focuses support on specific projects or programs that enhance the scope of services offered by an organization.

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Environmental education projects should support environmental education targeted at middle and high school students, including environmental and science-related projects, science fairs, Earth Day projects, and others.

The agency prefers not to support operating costs, capital campaigns, or multiyear requests, and will definitely not fund travel or endowments. Nonprofit organizations and public agencies are eligible to apply for funds. No minimum or maximum grant amount is stated. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

The Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment: Northern California Environmental Grassroots Fund

<http://rosefdn.org/grassrootsfund/about>

The purpose of this program is to support small-scale organizations in conducting environmental improvements in Northern California. Funds may be used to address toxic pollution, urban sprawl, sustainable agriculture, climate change, environmental degradation of rivers and wild places, and the environmental health of communities. General support will be provided for organizations with an environmental mission, and project support will be provided for strategies and costs such as community-based advocacy, technical assistance, litigation, restoration projects, organizing expenses, grassroots campaigns, and environmental education. One of the focus areas of the organization is the Sierra Nevada.

The program supports small groups and first-time grant seekers with an annual budget that does not exceed \$100,000. Grants are usually \$5,000 or less, and there are multiple deadlines.

The Strong Foundation for Environmental Values

<http://strongfoundationgrants.org/>

The purpose of this program is to support efforts that instill an ecological ethic in individuals and communities, and that encourage grassroots environmental action based on such an ethic. The program emphasizes awards for:

- Environmental and conservation efforts
- Eco-spirituality
- Grassroots action
- Environmental education
- Capacity building
- Citizen participation
- Collaborative efforts
- Innovative projects
- Land acquisition
- Planning
- Training

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Eligible applicants are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and local government. Applicants must have organization budgets of no more than \$1 million. The program is focused on projects located in California, specifically the geographic areas of:

- Northern California, which for the purposes of this program is defined to extend from the Oregon border in the north to the San Luis Obispo, Ventura, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino county lines in the south
- The Central Valley
- The Sierra Nevada, including:
 - The entire California-Oregon Klamath River watershed
 - The watersheds that arise in the Sierra Nevada and terminate in Nevada's terminal lakes

Awards range from \$2,000 to \$5,000. There are no stated matching requirements for this program. However, all secured or pending sources of funding must be detailed in the application. Application deadlines are February 15 and September 15.

New Belgium Brewing Company

<http://www.newbelgium.com/sustainability/Community/Philanthropy.aspx>

The purpose of this program is to improve the quality of life in communities where New Belgium beer is sold by promoting environmental stewardship and inspiring others to embrace sustainable choices. One of the program areas is youth environmental education. The company is interested in programs that foster connectivity between humans and nature, and that engage youth from a variety of backgrounds in the outdoors and prepare them to make knowledgeable choices about the environment.

Youth environmental education projects should:

- Apply an interdisciplinary approach
- Influence positive behavior change
- Experientially engage students in the outdoors
- Incorporate a comprehensive curriculum tied to national and state learning standards

Grants range from \$2,500 to \$10,000. The environmental education grant program is generally open for applications February through March.

The Cedar Tree Foundation

<http://cedartreefound.org/>

The Cedar Tree Foundation's grantmaking focuses on sustainable agriculture, environmental education, and environmental health. It gives particular consideration to proposals that demonstrate strong elements of environmental justice.

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The Foundation does not accept unsolicited proposals, but does welcome letters of inquiry for U.S.-based work from nonprofit organizations. The web site provides guidelines for these letters. Letters are accepted on a rolling basis, but the best time to submit is September-April.

The foundation web site does not specify a maximum grant amount, but in past years the environmental education grants have ranged from \$20,000 to \$100,000. Nothing is stated regarding matching funds.

Note that the foundation is undergoing a strategic planning process and will not be accepting applications for funding in 2016. The grant-making focus and requirements may change, so check their web site for updates.

The Campbell Foundation

<http://www.campbellfoundation.org/what-we-fund-pacific>

This foundation provides grants up to \$25,000 for outreach, education, and action programs related to water quality, specifically as it impacts the West Coast. The Campbell Foundation's Healthy Ocean Ecosystems program strives to identify opportunities in the field that

- Are gaining political momentum
- Present a great opportunity to leverage resources of all kinds
- Are innovative from a business and social perspective

The foundation tends to favor projects which include a media component. Areas of interest include:

- Sustainable fisheries (Domestic/Western U.S.)
- Protection of special places (Domestic/Western U.S.)
- Land-sea connection/water quality (Northern California)
- Communication of ocean conservation issues
- The impact of climate change on water resources in the western United States

The application is online. Deadlines are twice a year.

The Melinda Gray Ardia Environmental Foundation

<http://mgaef.org/grants.htm>

The mission of the foundation's grant program is to support educators in developing and implementing holistic environmental curricula that integrates field activities and classroom teaching, and which incorporates basic ecological principles and problem-solving. Its goals are to empower and encourage students to become involved in solving environmental and social problems, to promote thoughtful and appropriate analysis and understanding of the natural world, and to train students to become informed decision-makers through the emphasis and application of basic ecological principles.

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To be awarded a grant, environmental curricula must:

- Show a holistic approach
- Strive to synthesize multiple levels of learning (facts, concepts, principles)
- Include experiential integrated learning and problem-solving
- Be founded on basic scientific principles, including hypothesis testing and experimental design
- Incorporate basic ecological principles and field environmental activities within a primary or secondary school setting
- Present controversial issues objectively, stressing the development of individual student opinions

Any organization is eligible to apply, including schools, nonprofits, governmental agencies, and others. The only criterion is that the grant recipient be an organization, not an individual. The maximum grant is \$1,500. One-page pre-applications are due in August.

Johnson Ohana Charitable Foundation

<http://johnsonohana.org/home>

The purpose of this program is to promote positive and lasting change within communities by supporting innovative nonprofit organizations that focus on environmental, arts, and music education. The program supports organizations with strong community involvement, with greatest interest in those that work creatively toward solution-based approaches to environmental or societal problems, and that actively engage youth and/or volunteers in projects that provide measurable benefit to the environment and/or the community.

Environmental education funding focuses on:

- Oceans/rivers/watersheds
- Plastic-free initiatives
- Renewable energy
- Sustainable living
- Sustainable local food systems
- Farm-to-school programs
- Tree planting/restoration
- Energy, waste, and water conservation programs

Grant amounts range from \$5,000 to \$25,000. They also have a mini-grant program for requests less than \$5,000 to provide follow-up funding to past grantees, or support for organizations and projects that are new to the Foundation. The Foundation does not accept unsolicited proposals. If you think your project fits their criteria, send a short e-mail about your program or organization to info@johnsonohana.org.

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Califa: Public Libraries Advancing Community Engagement

<http://califa.org/place/>

Public Libraries Advancing Community Engagement (PLACE) is a project funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), working in partnership with the National Weather Service, the Califa Library Group, and others. The goal is for libraries to play a significant role in increasing a community's climate resiliency—the ability to recover quickly from, or plan for and anticipate, weather impacts. Using a model that is essentially “book club meets science café,” PLACE engages people in their own libraries and within their own communities to discuss local weather challenges and threats.

By participating in PLACE, community members will read popular fiction and non-fiction books, and watch human interest videos about real people who have developed resilient strategies for facing climate challenges. Through exploration and discussion, participants will become aware of online tools that can provide information for their own community, family, and individual planning for extreme weather and other climate events. Librarians sponsoring the events receive a grant of \$1,000 plus professional development and other resources. In partnership with NOAA scientists they co-facilitate a three-part public library program series for their community. Although no experience in leading science-based programs for adults or knowledge of climate issues is required to apply for this grant, some experience with science, technology, engineering, and mathematics programming is useful. The program will provide skill-building support and materials that will be needed to participate in the project.

Eligible applicants are public libraries located in rural and under-resourced urban communities. There is a limit of one staff person per library facility. Applications are due in August.