

# 2025 Recreation and Cultural Opportunities

## County of Santa Cruz Parks Grant Program - Guidelines



Each fiscal year, County of Santa Cruz allocates funds for community partners to provide cultural and recreational services. In 2025-26, a portion of these funds will be provided for a small grant to reach communities that historically County Parks has not been able to reach and serve.

### **County Parks Mission Statement**

The County of Santa Cruz Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services mission is to provide safe, well-designed, and maintained parks, and a wide variety of recreational and cultural opportunities for our diverse community.

### **County Parks Vision Statement**

We envision a healthy and vibrant county where everyone can be active, explore, learn, play and connect, and where our diverse natural and cultural resources are celebrated and protected for generations to come.

### **Strategic and Operational Plan**

[County Parks Strategic Plan \(parks.santacruzcountyca.gov\)](https://parks.santacruzcountyca.gov)

[Operational Plan \(santacruzcountyca.gov\)](https://santacruzcountyca.gov)

### **Eligible Recipients**

To be an eligible recipient, the organization needs to be located within County of Santa Cruz and registered or be willing to register as a Vendor with the County. (Registration only necessary if awarded)

[How to Register as a Vendor \(santacruzcountyca.gov\)](https://santacruzcountyca.gov)

### **Eligible Projects**

The proposed program should fulfill County Parks' Mission and Vision statements, align with County Parks' Strategic Plan, and serve areas within the unincorporated part of the County of Santa Cruz.

### **Selection**

As part of the effort, County Parks developed project selection criteria that incorporates:

- Need for the program
- Benefit to communities underserved by County Parks
- Community engagement
- Volunteer opportunities

### **Application Deadline**

- Proposals are open July 15<sup>th</sup> 2025 and due by August 15<sup>th</sup> 2025, for programs that take place in the 2025-26 fiscal year (July, 1 2025-June 30, 2026). If funding allows,

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proposals submitted after this date will continue to be considered on a rolling basis after the first batch of submissions is reviewed.

- Proposals can be submitted via email to [ParksFiscal@parks.santacruzcountycalifornia.gov](mailto:ParksFiscal@parks.santacruzcountycalifornia.gov) with "2025 New Recreation Opportunities – <Organization Name>" in Subject line.

### **Funding and Timeline**

- Funding for this grant program is available in the Cultural Services budget. The recommended requested amount is \$5,000, but actual awards might differ from requested amounts based on available funding and number of applications.
- Awards are expected to be announced in late August 2025.
- The project must take place and funds shall be spent by June 30, 2026.

### **Funds disbursement and Reporting requirements**

- If awarded, County Parks will provide funds in two installment payments, forty percent
- (40%) within thirty (30) days of receiving a Payment Request #1 after proposal is approved and the contract is fully executed, and the remaining sixty percent (60%) upon the acceptance of a Final Project Report and Payment Request #2.
- Funds should be used solely for the designated purposes as described in the executed Agreement and subject to Grantee's performance of all requirements under the Agreement.
- Final Program Report shall include the following materials: documentation of activities offered (e.g., activity calendar, program flyers, photographs, etc.) and attendance figures.
- In addition, recipient shall acknowledge in all reports and literature, as well as on the agency website, that the County of Santa Cruz Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services has provided funding for proposed program.

Any questions can be submitted to [ParksFiscal@parks.santacruzcountycalifornia.gov](mailto:ParksFiscal@parks.santacruzcountycalifornia.gov)

### **Scoring Rubric**

- Grants will be scored on the following criteria:
- Location (required): in an underserved area of within an unincorporated part of Santa Cruz County
- Need for the Program: Scores 0-5 points
- Benefit to Communities underserved by County Parks: Scores 0-5 points
- Community Engagement: Scores 0-5 points
- Volunteer Opportunities: Scores 0-5 points

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