BC Naturalists' Foundation and BC Nature
2027 Club Support Grants
A Guide to Preparing Your Application

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What Makes a Strong Club Support Grant Application?
Every year, the BC Naturalists' Foundation and BC Nature have the pleasure of supporting projects that are making a difference in communities across British Columbia. Club Support Grants may be modest in size—up to $3,000—but they can help clubs turn a good idea into meaningful action. So, what are we looking for when we read your application?

Start with the "why." Tell us about the need or opportunity your project addresses. Why is this project important to your community? Who will benefit? What problem are you trying to solve, or what opportunity are you trying to create? A clear explanation of the need helps reviewers understand why your project matters.

Be specific about what you plan to do. Tell us what will actually happen. What activities will you undertake? Where and when will they take place? Who will be involved? What will the grant pay for? Clear, achievable objectives are much more useful than broad statements about wanting to "raise awareness" or "help nature."

Tell us about your people. Naturalist clubs accomplish remarkable things because of their volunteers. Explain who will carry out the work, what skills are available, and how volunteers or community partners will contribute. Volunteer time is a real contribution to a project, so include it in your budget where appropriate. This might be a slim section in your application with a larger focus during your reporting. We love stories about people in reports!

Make your budget tell the story. We should be able to see exactly what the grant will fund and how those costs fit into the overall project. Include other funding, in-kind contributions and your club's contribution. A small grant can go a long way when it helps leverage other resources.

Think about outcomes. What will be different when the project is finished? How many people might participate? What will you produce, learn, monitor, restore or improve? How will you know whether you succeeded? Thinking about outcomes before you begin will also make your final report much easier.

Look at what other clubs have done. The BC Naturalists' Foundation grant history is a terrific resource. The website includes a list of funded projects from 1991–2025, showing the remarkable range of projects supported—from habitat restoration and species monitoring to education, communications, community science and infrastructure. View the BC Naturalists' Foundation Grants List

Give yourself time. The Club Support Grant deadline is January 31. Don't leave your application until the last minute. Start by discussing the idea with your club, obtain the required board approval, develop your budget and ask someone who was not involved in writing the application to read it. A fresh reader can often spot missing information or questions that need clarification

Assistance is available. Start with the Club Support Grants page. Previous successful applications and projects can also provide inspiration. Can't find what you are looking for? Email: info@bcnature.ca

There will also be two zoom meetings to discuss the application process.

Saturday: Nov 28, 11:00 am-12:00pm PT
Tuesday: Dec 8: 7:00 pm-8:00pm PT

Please send an email to info@bcnature.ca to get your Zoom link - please specify the date you would like to participate in.

Most importantly, **don't assume we know your club or your project.** Give us enough information to understand what you want to accomplish and why your project is valuable.

Think of the application not simply as a request for funding, but as an opportunity to tell the story of your club, your community and the difference you hope to make.

We look forward to reading your ideas—and to helping naturalist clubs across BC turn those ideas into action.