



2024-2025 Conservation Education Mini-Grants

Columbia, SC—Richland County public, private, and alternative schools are eligible to apply for up to \$1,000 in grant funding to support conservation projects and youth environmental education initiatives through Conservation Education Mini-Grants sponsored by the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). To be eligible for funding, schools must be located in Richland County (including the City of Columbia) or, in the case of schools in Lexington-Richland School District Five, must serve Richland County students.

Mini-Grants may be used to support conservation-related student projects including, but not limited to, outdoor classrooms, school gardens, nature trails, wildlife habitats, rain barrels, composting initiatives, air quality campaigns, litter clean-ups, rain gardens, erosion control, virtual learning opportunities for students, and take-home activities promoting environmental stewardship.

Awards are competitive and proposals will be evaluated on the project's conservation impact, feasibility, student and community involvement, and educational outcomes. Grants are available in amounts up to \$1,000; applicants should design a budget based on what is most appropriate for their project.

Two award cycles are available: applications received by **October 2, 2024** will be considered for fall 2024 funding; applications received by **January 23, 2025** will be considered for spring 2025 funding. Funding is issued as a reimbursement for project expenses; copies of receipts and a brief final report containing captioned photos of the completed project are required for reimbursement. Project work and the expenditure of funds must be completed by **June 11, 2025**.

For more information, contact Chelsea Holliday at (803) 576-2087 or holliday.chelsea@richlandcountysc.gov.

###

Conservation Districts are political subdivisions of state government under the local direction of five-member Boards of Commissioners. The Richland Soil and Water Conservation District promotes the wise use and care of natural resources--with a focus on soil and water--for long-term sustainability in a changing environment.

Contact

Richland Soil and Water Conservation District
2020 Hampton Street, Room 3063A
Columbia, SC 29204
Phone (803) 576-2084
Fax (803) 576-2088
E-mail soilandwater@richlandcountysc.gov
Facebook www.facebook.com/rswcd



2024-2025 Conservation Education Mini-Grant Application

Please respond to the following questions. Expand response areas and attach additional pages as necessary.

Applicant's Name: _____ Title/Position: _____

Applicant's E-mail: _____ Applicant's Phone: _____

School: _____

School Address: _____

Principal's Name: _____ Principal's E-mail: _____

1. Project Title:
2. Briefly describe the proposed project.
3. How will this project promote natural resource conservation and conservation education?
4. I am applying for: ___ \$250 ___ \$500 ___ \$750 ___ \$1,000

5. Project Budget (add additional rows as necessary):

Item	Unit Cost (\$)	Quantity	Total Cost (\$)
Total (\$)			

6. If your proposed project will cost more than the Mini-Grant award amount you requested above, how will the rest of the project be funded? Do you have any committed or potential sources of matching funding?
7. Project timeline: Describe your project's timeline. Assume fall mini-grants will be awarded by November 1, and spring mini-grants will be awarded by March 1.
8. Student Involvement:
 - a. How *many* students will be involved in this project? List by grade.
 - b. *How* will students be involved in this project?

9. Collaboration: Describe if and how other faculty members, staff, parents, project mentors, local businesses, or community volunteers will be involved with the project.
10. Educational Outcomes: How will this project enhance student learning? Please include any state academic standards and/or school or classroom learning goals this project will be used to address.
11. Optional Supporting Materials: You are welcome but not required to submit captioned photographs, letters of support, or other materials demonstrating why your project deserves to receive a Conservation Education Mini-Grant. *(Tip: At least one letter of support and at least one photo are recommended. These may be submitted, along with the application, via US Mail, e-mail, or fax per the instructions below.)*
12. Administrator certification: A school administrator (principal or headmaster) must certify they **are aware of this grant proposal, support the proposed project, and, if the project is selected for funding, will allow the project to be installed or completed on school property.** Please have your school administrator either sign on the line below OR submit a separate certification (via US Mail, e-mail, or fax per the instructions below) acknowledging their support for this project.

Administrator's Signature

Date

Submit your application and any optional supporting materials by US Mail, e-mail, or fax, to:

Richland Soil and Water Conservation District
2020 Hampton Street, Room 3063A
Columbia, SC 29204
Phone: (803) 576-2084
Fax: (803) 576-2088
E-mail: soilandwater@richlandcountysc.gov

Application Deadlines:
October 2, 2024 and January 23, 2025