



Grand Canyon Fund
C/O Grand Canyon River Outfitters Association
PO Box 22189
Flagstaff, AZ 86002

Contact:
John Dillon – Executive Director
Office: 928-556-0669
Email: john@gcroa.org
Website: www.gcroa.org

For Immediate Release

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Contact: John Dillon

GRAND CANYON FUND ACCEPTING GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR 2025

What is The Grand Canyon Fund (GCF)

The Grand Canyon Fund (GCF) was created in 1988. It is a 501(c)(3) Arizona non-profit public charity proudly managed by the sixteen licensed river concessioners at Grand Canyon National Park via their trade association known as Grand Canyon River Outfitters Association (GCROA). Each river season, commercial rafting passengers voluntarily make small monetary donations (usually a minimum of \$1 per person per day of their commercial river trip) to the GCF. Additional direct donations are also accepted. This is the major source by which the GCF raises approximately \$100,000 per year. There are no overhead costs to the management of the Grand Canyon Fund, and 100% of the annual donations are usually given as grants to worthy applicants each year. To date, the GCF has granted approximately \$2.2 million dollars to qualified applicants.

Focus and Priorities

The GCF supports non-profit public interest organizations actively involved in one of two areas:

1. The protection and/or conservation of the natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources of the Grand Canyon with a particular emphasis on the Colorado River corridor, or
2. The assistance of groups or individuals burdened with physical disabilities and/or socioeconomic impediments who seek and may substantially benefit from a Grand Canyon river experience.

Awards and Funding Levels Available

While there are no set guarantees, the GCF has historically awarded grants to approximately seven to ten applicants each year. Usually only two grants are awarded annually to support disability river trips applicants, and the rest are awarded to resource conservation and protection applicants. Grant awards generally range between \$3,000 to \$20,000 each. The GCF is naturally interested in supporting groups and projects that make effective and efficient use of the grant monies awarded and have a history of achieving such goals. If applications fall short of demonstrating a high probability of attaining effective and appropriate use of funds, the GCF reserves the right to retain such funds until acceptable proposals are received.

How to Apply for a Grant

Applicants must be a non-profit organization to qualify for a typical grant. Grants are generally not awarded to individuals or traditional for-profit organizations or companies. Qualified applicants must submit a comprehensive written proposal addressed to The Grand Canyon Fund. Grant applications should be both concise and thorough. All proposals must include:

1. **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY** – include a brief description of the proposed project and its objective.
2. **WHO** – Provide detailed information about the applicant, including its legal name, purpose, mission, history, basic organizational structure, key management, and how it generally operates. Because the GCF awards grants only to non-profit public interest organizations, be sure to provide proof of its federal tax-exempt status as a 501(c)(3) public charity, and the EIN. If the applicant is a past recipient of a GCF grant, its history of receiving prior GCF grants should be noted.
3. **WHAT** – Provide the specific dollar amount requested from the GCF.

4. **WHY** – Demonstrate the need. Explain why a GCF grant would be necessary and helpful in achieving the objective. Provide details of the particular parts of the resource (i.e. natural, cultural, historical, or recreational) that would benefit. Or provide information of which individual(s) or groups would benefit. Include information on other organizations you plan to partner with to accomplish your objectives.
5. **WHEN** – Explain the timing of your need, and when you anticipate requiring the funds. Also explain when your project or river trip will take place in 2025.
6. **HOW** – How will the awarded funds specifically be used to achieve your objective. Answer the simple question, “Where does the money go?”.
7. **IMPORTANT:** Proposals for conservation projects or actual work to take place within Grand Canyon National Park must include a letter or documentation from the National Park Service authorizing the project should a grant be awarded. Applications lacking such official National Park Service approval and documentation will not be considered. Applicants for disability river trips do not need this type of NPS approval, but please note which commercial river outfitter will be the provider of such trip.

Application Due Date and Details

All applications should be done electronically! Please email the entire proposal compiled in just ONE Adobe Acrobat portable document file (.pdf) format attachment to john@gcroa.org. Please, do NOT provide multiple attachments or documents in the email. If the .pdf attachment is too large to email, you may submit via other tools such as Dropbox, WeTransfer, etc. Or you may mail a USB flash drive (not a disc). It is best to follow up to confirm your electronic version has been received before the deadline! If you cannot provide an electronic .pdf for whatever reason, please contact John Dillon to discuss alternative options.

Proposals must be received by 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 22, 2025:



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All successful applications will be reviewed and considered for funding by the Grand Canyon Fund Board of Trustees. Successful applicants will be notified of their award shortly thereafter by telephone or email. Awards are expected to be distributed before the end of 2025 to be applied to projects in 2026.

Member Outfitters

ALL sixteen members of GCF program are the authorized river concessioners of the Grand Canyon National Park:

Arizona Raft Adventures
Canyon Expeditions
Canyoneers
Grand Canyon Discovery
Grand Canyon Raft Adventures
Hatch River Expeditions
Outdoors Unlimited
Western River Expeditions

Arizona River Runners
Canyon Explorations
Colorado River & Trails Expeditions
Grand Canyon Expeditions
Grand Canyon Whitewater
O.A.R.S., Grand Canyon
Tour West
Wilderness River Adventures



**Authorized
Concessioner**

Additional Information

If you have questions about the Grand Canyon Fund or the grant application, submittal, or evaluation process, please call John Dillon at (928) 556-0669 or email john@gcroa.org.