

FY 2021 NPS Challenge Cost Share Program Statement of Approval



NPS Superintendent or Trail/River Manager,

Please read the below information about the FY21 Challenge Cost Share (CCS) Program and sign the statement of approval on page 2 of this document.

CCS Project Themes: Applications are being accepted for projects that benefit NPS administered Parks, the National Trails System, and Wild and Scenic Rivers AND that advance one or more of the following themes:

- **Climate Change Adaptation** – Projects that build park resiliency to changing climate conditions. Projects can include developing green infrastructure and nature-based solutions.
- **Outdoor Recreation** – Projects that increase public access to outdoor recreation opportunities.
- **Youth Engagement** – 1) Projects that get youth on NPS-administered lands and waterways, including natural, cultural, historical, and recreation resources; or 2) Projects that promote stewardship of park resources; or 3) Projects that build outdoor skills for life-long enjoyment of public lands and waterways.

Eligibility and Administration: Eligibility extends to NPS-administered Parks, National Trails, and Wild and Scenic Rivers (including Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers). All projects should be collaborative partnerships between NPS staff and a partnering nonprofit or educational institution. **NPS staff should submit the application. If approved, the identified nonprofit partner or educational institution will act as the fiscal manager of this award and will become the main contact for this request.**

Qualifying Criteria: Every application must meet these Qualifying Criteria before further consideration:

1. **Supports National Park Service Responsibilities** – The project must benefit one or more national park, National Trail, and/or Wild and Scenic River.
2. **Collaboration and Cost-Sharing** – The project must be financially supported, equally, by NPS and partner(s). The partner(s) must commit to providing a total match equivalent to the level of CCS funding received. This match can consist of in-kind goods and services as well as cash from non-federal sources.
3. **Maximum Financial Support** – \$25,000 is the maximum amount of CCS funding provided per project.
4. **Timing** – The proposed project should be substantially complete within 10-12 months from the date that CCS funds are disbursed. Funds should be expensed, or have a plan for expense, by the end of the NPS FY.
5. **No NPS Salaries** – CCS support may not be used for any ONPS staff salaries.

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Selection Criteria: Qualifying applications will be evaluated based on the degree to which each proposal meets the following criteria:

1. **Results Driven** – The project has clear and specific results.
2. **Clear Roles** – Roles and contributions by both the National Park Service staff and its project partner(s) are clear, substantive, and well-defined.
3. **Benefits** – The anticipated benefit for your partner(s), NPS, and the public is clear.
4. **Achieves the Challenge Cost Share Program's Themes** – The project advances one or more of the three FY21 thematic categories.
5. **Build public stewardship** – The project builds new stewardship opportunities for the public.

The Challenge Cost Share program is designed to cultivate shared efforts in the NPS mission with National Parks, National Trails, and Wild and Scenic Rivers and their partners. Additional information and a list of contacts are available at: <https://www.nps.gov/ccsp>.

Signature

I, _____, approve of NPS involvement in this project and
(NPS Superintendent or Trail/River Manager)
approve of the submission of this application. I agree that this proposal meets all of the stated program qualifying criteria, including the partner match and timing parameters.

Signature of NPS Superintendent or Trail/River Manager

Date

NPS Administered Park, Trail or River Name

