

FY 2024 NPS Challenge Cost Share Program Statement of Approval



NPS Superintendent or Trail/River Manager,

Please read the information below about the FY24 Challenge Cost Share (CCS) Program and sign the statement of approval on page 2 of this document.

CCS Project Themes: Selected projects will strengthen conservation and outdoor recreation on NPS-administered National Parks, National Trails System, and Wild and Scenic Rivers in one or more of the following ways:

- **Addressing the Climate Crisis.** Projects that address the climate crisis and builds resiliency to a changing climate. Projects could include developing green infrastructure, nature-based solutions, and/or creating sustainable energy sources.
- **Conservation Projects (Lands and Waters).** Projects that increase the acres of protected or restored lands and waters.
- **Outdoor Recreation.** Projects that increase public access to new and restored outdoor recreation opportunities.

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 primary 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 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 CCS funding per project.
4. **Timing** – The proposed project should have funds obligated by September 30, 2024, and should be complete by December 31, 2024.
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 FY24 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, 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)
support the submission of this application. I agree that this proposal meets all 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

