



Project Priority Scoring System  
Texas Recreation & Parks Account  
**Community Outdoor Outreach Program (Effective May 1, 2014)**

**Applicant Eligibility**

- Applicant must be a tax-exempt organization;
- All previously completed Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) grants must be closed and in compliance with all program guidelines and all terms of the Project Agreement under which they received assistance; and
- Application includes an authorizing resolution.

**Sponsor Contribution included in Resolution**

Total Range: 0-1 point

Applicant is eligible if the application includes a resolution signed by governing board or authorized official that:

- Specifically authorizes the submission of the grant application to the department;
- Identifies any sponsorship contribution 1 point; and
- Resolution is dated, bearing a date that is no more than one year proceeding the date of submission.

**Project Description**

Total Range: 0-5 points

Project description should provide a basic overview that:

- Allows the department to quickly determine the key points of the project;
- Describes goals and objectives of the project;
- Includes an assessment instrument for measuring project progress from initiation to completion;
- Addresses risk-management measures; and
- Includes an itemized list of expenses to be paid by CO-OP funds.

**Project Action Plan**

Total Range: 0-3 points

A project action plan should include:

- A one-year timeline for the project, beginning within six months of grant approval and proceeding to completion; and
- A detailed description of proposed sites, dates, and planned activities.

**Proposed Project's Primary Constituency**

Total Range: 0-15 points

- Inner City (city must have a population of 100,000 or greater), based on population figures of applicant location (may be inner-city or rural or neither, but not both): 2 points
- Rural (cities or counties of 20,000 or less population), based on population figures of applicant location (may be inner-city or rural or neither, but not both): 2 points
- Ethnic minority (ethnic minorities within served population greater than or equal to 50% of total served population): 3

points

- Females (females within served population greater than or equal to 50% of total served population): 3 points
- Low income greater than or equal to 50% of total served population: 3 points
- Physically/mentally challenged (includes ADD, ADHD, special education and must be stated in a number or percentage of total served population): 2 points
- Youth must be stated in number or percentage served (age 17 and under): 2 points

### **Number of Program Participants**

Total Range: 0-10 points

Number of participants the proposed project will serve. One point awarded per 25 persons served, up to a maximum of 10 points.

### **Direct Relationship with TPWD Personnel, Facilities or Programs**

Total Range: 0-5 points

One point shall be awarded per instance of:

- TPWD facility used (must name each department facility);
- TPWD personnel involvement (must provide letter of coordination from TPWD staff); and
- TPWD program provided (must identify each program).

### **Activities Related to TPWD Initiatives**

Total Range: 0-5 points

One point shall be awarded for each proposed activity related to a TPWD initiative (e.g. fishing, camping, hunting, environmental education, or other outdoor activity).

### **Career Development and Mentoring Components**

Total range: 0-3 points

Project specifically serves at-risk youth as follows:

- One point for each activity serving at-risk youth through natural resource mentoring programs; and
- Two points for each activity serving at-risk youth through natural resource career development programs.

### **Outdoor Service Project**

Total range: 0-3 points

Eligible service projects must be related to the department's mission. Projects must be described in detail and must include a partnership letter from the involved entities or organization. Examples of eligible service projects include but are not limited to: trail or habitat restoration, planting native vegetation, wildlife monitoring, students mentoring students and building/distributing bird houses. Points will be awarded on the following criteria:

- Environmental/conservation needs addressed by the proposed service project and how the proposed service project will address the needs identified in project's primary constituency;
- The direct involvement of youth in the planning and problem solving process; and
- The prospective impact of the service project on youth and the community.

**Project Encourages Partnership with Organization Groups**

Total range: 0-4 points

Application must include partnership letters from the partnering organization. Letters of endorsement will not receive credit. One point shall be awarded for each partnership agreement that commits cash contributions, volunteer labor, program materials, physical facilities use, transportation, food, etc. Letters must be current, dated, signed and state what the partners are providing to the program as well as the value of the contribution applicable.

**Budget Summary**

Total range: 0-3 points

A budget summary should explain proposed expenses and costs, the dollar value of the grant being requested and applicant's contribution.

**Project Prioritizes Direct Service Costs**

Total range: 0-10 points

Points shall be awarded on a percentage basis, determined by dividing the direct service delivery costs by the total project cost and multiplying the result by 10.

**Applicant's Funds and Resources are Committed to the Project**

Total range: 0-4 points

Points shall be awarded on a percentage basis, determined by dividing the local/applicant funds by the total project cost and multiplying the result by 4. Applicant must provide auditable proof of the contribution.

**Previous Grant Reimbursement Requirements (deduction)**

Applicant has fulfilled all previous Community Outdoor Outreach grant reimbursement requirements. If no, deduct points from the application score determined by multiplying the remaining unspent grant balance by 0.0015.