

# TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

## Community Outdoor Outreach Program Proposed Scoring Criteria

### Mission

To provide funding to local governments, schools and non-profit organizations for programming that engages underserved populations in TPWD mission-oriented outdoor recreation, conservation and environmental education activities.

### Definitions

#### *Underserved Populations*

As identified in Chapter 24 of the Parks and Wildlife Code, underserved populations include female, low income, non-Anglo ethnicity, physically/mentally challenged and youth participants.

#### *Outdoor Recreation Activities*

Outdoor recreation activities include but are not limited to:

Archery	Cultural Resource Exploration	Nature Photography
Backpacking/Hiking	Environmental Education	Orienteering/Geocaching
Birding/Wildlife Viewing	Equestrian	Outdoor Cooking
Camping	Fishing/Angling	Rock Climbing/Rappelling
Canoeing/Kayaking/SUP/Boating	Hunting	Shooting Sports
Caving	Mountain Biking	

### Priorities

The CO-OP grant has the following priorities for engaging underserved populations:

1. Increase access and participation in the outdoors
  - a. Encourage people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to experience the outdoors
  - b. Provide high quality outdoor recreation opportunities
  - c. Increase and facilitate access to Texas' natural and cultural resources for recreation
  - d. Encourage nature and heritage tourism to Texas Parks & Wildlife Department operated sites
2. Educate and engage Texans in support of conservation and recreation
  - a. Develop life-long behaviors consistent with TPWD mission
  - b. Cultivate support for the conservation of natural and cultural resources
  - c. Experience hands-on science education outdoors to actively support the understanding of natural ecosystems
  - d. Integrate TPWD personnel, programs & places into outdoor recreation and conservation education
  - e. Nurture appreciation and understanding of the outdoors
3. Enable science based stewardship of natural and cultural resources
  - a. Promote citizen participation in hands-on conservation
  - b. Encourage citizen participants to maintain, restore and protect natural and cultural resources
  - c. Develop the next generation of leadership to promote and protect healthy ecosystems
  - d. Inspire and nurture partnerships that result in tangible conservation benefits

## Eligibility

CO-OP is requesting feedback on adding the following eligibility requirements:

- A minimum of 1 TPWD direct connection must be incorporated including visiting TPWD operated sites, integrating TPWD education programs and/or participants working directly with TPWD personnel.

## Scoring Criteria

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### *Addresses CO-OP Priorities*

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- The extent and quality of the approach for addressing one or more of the CO-OP priorities.
- The extent and quality of participant's direct connection to Texas Parks & Wildlife including TPWD operated sites, integrating TPWD education programs and/or participants working directly with TPWD personnel. A minimum of 1 direct relationship must be included to be eligible for grant funds.
- The applicant has provided a fully developed, detailed and feasible approach to meeting priorities.
- The identified priority performance measures are fully developed, detailed and propose a feasible approach to meeting CO-OP priorities.

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### *Targets Underserved Populations*

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- The extent that participants represent target demographics identified by CO-OP to be underserved, including female, non-Anglo ethnicity, low income and physically or mentally challenged demographics.
- Reasonable assurance is provided to ensure CO-OP's target demographic is served including a clearly articulated plan to recruit, a history of serving or secured partnerships for participant demographics.
- The applicant demonstrates a clear, feasible plan to track participant demographic information.
- Identified participants include youth.
- Project headquarters is considered either rural or inner city.
- The identified underserved populations performance measures are fully developed, detailed and propose a feasible approach to meeting CO-OP priorities.

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### *Creates Participant & Environmental Impact*

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- The likelihood of developing life-long behaviors consistent with CO-OP mission with preference for projects that provide participants repeat, multiple exposure over an extended period of time.
- The extent to which the proposed activities will create the next generation of natural resource and outdoor recreation leaders or professionals.
- Activities utilize an active engagement approach to skill development.
- Participant activities are fully developed, well designed and demonstrate a high potential for success.
- The identified participant impact performance measures are fully developed, detailed and propose a feasible approach to meeting CO-OP priorities.
- The level that activities conducted by participants will result in tangible environmental impacts.

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### *Organizational Capacity*

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- The organization demonstrates past experience coordinating similar activities.
- The organization has qualified staff and resources in place to manage the grant from inception to completion. If the organization lacks these resources, the applicant has effectively described partnerships in place to secure these resources.
- The organization plans to continue similar activities and will maintain grant supported supplies and equipment after the grant period ends.
- The project addresses risk management relative to the proposed activities.

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### *Budget and Timeline*

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- The proposal is fully developed and sets forth a clear, logical and achievable work plan and timeline.
- The activities and work plan have a high likelihood of success.
- The budget items proposed are allowable, reasonable and clearly support the proposed activities.
- The budget is cost effective and provides a reasonable return on investment relative to participant impact.
- Sponsor contribution?

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### *Past Performance (deduction)*

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A scoring deduction will be imposed if the applicant is in non-compliance with previously funded TPWD Recreation Grants Branch projects that were open within the past 5 years. Non-compliance includes:

- Remaining unspent funds
- Unmet project elements or requirements
- Unresponsive communication
- Extensions without extenuating circumstances
- Missing, late or poor quality reports

If a project receives a deduction for any of the above requirements and scores competitively to receive grant funding, a corrective action plan may be requested to avoid future performance issues.

## Scoring Matrix

<b>Excellent (5)</b>	<p>An excellent rating indicates that the section of the proposed program is compelling, consistently excellent in quality, and addresses all requirements; thereby showing the <b>highest potential for success</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>δ Goes beyond what was requested, showing that the applicant has anticipated issues that may arise.</li><li>δ Provides a thorough, detailed response to the information requested.</li><li>δ Provides clear evidence to support the objectives of this section (no assumptions are made).</li><li>δ Supports ideas and objectives with comprehensive plans explaining and connecting ideas to objectives.</li></ul>
<b>Good (4)</b>	<p>A good rating indicates that the section of the proposed program is solid, good-quality, and <b>has great potential for success</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>δ Provides a response to all of the information requested.</li><li>δ Provides a realistic description of how the proposed activities will achieve the anticipated results.</li><li>δ Explains most assumptions and reasons.</li><li>δ Supports ideas with comprehensive plans, examples, or outlines.</li></ul>
<b>Average (3)</b>	<p>An average rating indicates that the section of the proposed program generally meets requirements for a reasonable chance of success, but is <b>neither especially good nor especially fair</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>δ Covers most of the information requested, with a few exceptions.</li><li>δ Is sometimes unclear how the proposed activities will achieve the anticipated results.</li><li>δ Makes some assumptions and leaves some reasons unexplained.</li><li>δ Supports individual ideas with plans, examples, or outlines.</li></ul>
<b>Fair (2)</b>	<p>A fair rating indicates that the section of the proposed program is below standard, especially in ability, skill, or quality; indicating that this element of the program will <b>most likely not succeed</b> as described.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>δ Does not provide one or more key pieces of requested information.</li><li>δ Tends to "parrot" back the question, rather than answer and explain it.</li><li>δ Makes several unsupported assumptions and several reasons are not defined.</li><li>δ Gives a weak description of how the proposed activities will achieve the anticipated result.</li></ul>
<b>Poor (1)</b>	<p>A poor rating reflects that the section of the proposed program inconsistently or poorly responds to the requested criteria and has <b>little potential for success</b> as described.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>δ Did not address or respond to the requirements in the Application and Program Guidance.</li><li>δ Proposes activities that are not consistent with the Program Guidance and application instructions.</li><li>δ Makes many unsupported assumptions and many reasons are not defined.</li><li>δ Did not connect the activities to the anticipated results.</li></ul>