

Penn Soil Resource Conservation and Development Council

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2017 PA River of the Year Celebration Mini Grants

As the organization that nominated the Allegheny River, Penn Soil Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council, a registered 501-c-3 charitable organization serving the residents of eight northwestern PA Counties will receive a \$10,000 leadership grant from the PA DCNR and the PA Organization of Watersheds and Rivers to help plan and celebrate the River of the Year designation. DCNR and POWR will work with the Penn Soil Resource Conservation and Development Council to create a free, commemorative poster celebrating the Allegheny River. Penn Soil RC&D will also coordinate with many partner organizations to manage the 2017 River of the Year celebration over a large geographic area to hold educational and recreational events connecting residents and visitors alike to the value of clean water and the resources provided by a high quality stream such as the Allegheny River.

Every year, thousands of people paddle down this beautiful river, and winning this designation helps us focus more attention on its history; the value of clean water; its biological diversity; the recreational opportunities it provides; and the economic value of the Allegheny River to our region. Through public educational and recreational events and projects in the coming year, we hope to increase public awareness and participation in activities which will lead to increased stewardship of our natural resources.

As part of the River of the Year Celebration, Penn Soil RC&D will accept applications for Mini-Grants of up to \$500 each from qualified applicants to co-sponsor River of the Year activities, events or educational programming associated with the Allegheny River that meet the criteria specified in the grant application. Penn Soil RC&D Council reserves the right to select the most appropriate applications for inclusion in the River of the Year Celebration. Penn Soil RC&D may also offer to provide additional in-kind assistance to help publicize or promote your event as part of the overall 2017 PA River of the Year Celebration, whether a grant is awarded or not.

2017 Allegheny River of the Year Mini Grant Program

Eligible Applicants

Conservation Districts, Municipalities, municipal agencies, pre-qualified land trusts and registered charitable organizations tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Eligible Activities, Events, or Educational Programming

Projects eligible for the mini grant funding must meet the following criteria: The project must take place in the state of PA and provide educational, recreational, or environmental benefits focused on the Allegheny River resources. The event must be scheduled and held between the dates of May 1, 2017 and November 6, 2017. Some examples of eligible projects could include educational sojourns, paddling or float trip events, water safety programs, public access area improvements, stream cleanup projects, establishment of riparian buffers, erosion control projects, control of invasive species, fishing derbies, educational programs, water quality monitoring training, etc.

Match Requirement:

Grant funds reimbursed must be matched dollar for dollar with either cash from other sources, documented volunteer time or a combination of cash and in kind paid or volunteer time documentation. Volunteer time will be valued at \$21.25 per hour for the purposes of this mini grant. Volunteer timesheets and travel expense forms will be provided for your documentation upon notification of a successful grant award.

Eligible Non-cash match includes those services that are directly tied to the project's development and implementation after a grant has been awarded, and without using them the work would have to be contracted out or paid by other means. Eligible non-cash match or In-kind services must be properly documented.

Eligible Expenses:

Eligible project expenses may include facility, equipment, or venue rental costs, speaker fees, travel expense, cost of instruction, printing & postage cost, materials and supplies used in the project, event insurance, necessary professional services, portable sanitation services, signage, and advertising.

Ineligible Expenses:

It is impossible to list all ineligible items, however, in general, grant funds cannot be used to purchase food and drink, entertainment, t shirts, promotional giveaway items or souvenirs, or tools and equipment that will outlast the event. Grant funds may not be spent for fundraising activities.

Applications will be accepted via regular mail at Penn Soil RC&D Council; 4000 Conewango Avenue; Warren, PA 16365 or via email at the address listed below. The application may be submitted using either the PDF version or the expandable Microsoft Word version. Penn Soil RC&D Council reserves the right to select the most appropriate applications for inclusion in the River of the Year Celebration.

For more information or to discuss a potential River of the Year Celebration Event, please contact Wes Ramsey, Executive Director of Penn Soil RC&D via telephone at (814) 726-1441 extension 5 or via email at pennsoilrcd@wconseration.net .

2017 PA River of the Year Mini-Grant Application

Applicant _____

Mailing address _____

Project Contact name _____ Telephone _____

Email address _____

Name of Project or Event _____

Location of Project or Event _____

Tentative Date(s) of Event _____ Estimated Attendance _____

Describe Primary Purpose of Event _____

What Benefits will be created by this project or event? _____

Grant Funds Requested \$ _____ Estimated Cost of Project or Event _____

What will grant funds be used for? _____

How do you plan to meet the match requirement? _____