



Funding Opportunities

Central Coast State Parks Association provides financial support to our local CA State Parks' educational and interpretive programs. Our regular income comes from our retail stores, firewood sales, CCSPA membership dues, and special program fees. When our State Parks have emergent programs, they often need new funding sources. CCSPA encourages donors to consider opportunities to provide funding for the following programs or organizational needs.

If any of these funding opportunities interest you, please contact Executive Director Laura Albers at 805.548.0391 or ed@centralcoastparks.org for more information.

Updated: April 6, 2017

Program funding opportunities

SeaLife Stewards Expansion to Avila Beach/Shell Beach Expected Need: \$ 3,000

2016 brought a brand-new program to the central coast. Modeled after similar programs in other coastal areas, SeaLife Stewards is a collaboration between CA State Parks, Morro Bay National Estuary Program, the Seabird Protection Network, and the Division of Boating and Waterways. Volunteers for this program go through extensive training in safety, interpretation, monitoring, and information about wildlife and the area. They then take that training to the water, paddling their kayaks and talking to water based visitors about respectful viewing of wildlife. The program is ready to expand south along our coast to target Shell Beach and Avila Beach. Funds are needed to cover the costs of kayaks, equipment, and training.

Oceano Dunes District Summer Adventure Program Expected Need: \$15,000

The Oceano Dunes District Summer Adventurers program would be a weeklong day camp for kids ages 8 to 12, provided two times in the summer. The purpose of the program is to expose children to the joys of exploring and recreating in our parks with the goal of instilling a lifelong appreciation for the outdoors through collaborative learning while fostering environmental and community stewardship. Funding is needed for transportation and program startup costs. This is a fee-based program where we hope to be self-sustained in two years. Expected start-up cost is based on a similar program run out of Point Lobos State Park. We expect our program to have similar needs and structure.

School Groups 2016-2017 Transportation Matching Grant

Expected Need: \$5,000

During the 2014-2015 school year, CCSPA received a grant from the California Coastal Conservancy to provide funding towards the transportation costs incurred when school groups travel to our parks for field trips. These trips vary between trips based out of the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History, Pismo State Beach Monarch Butterfly Grove, or the Oceano Dunes Visitor Center at Pismo State Beach. The field trips are led by our highly trained docents or State Park Interpreters, and are free of charge. However, the cost to transport the students to our sites is often prohibitive for many schools. The 2014-2015 grant provided a reimbursement for up to 50% of the transportation cost for schools serving lower income and underprivileged students. The 2016-2017 will duplicate the previous award, and is made possible by an anonymous donor who saw the benefit of the original grant and wanted to provide the opportunity again. This donor has gifted \$5,000 in matching funds, with the goal of providing another \$10,000 for the 2016-17 school year.

Docent Clothing Fund

Expected Need: \$2,000+

State Park docents are always recognizable by their blues - blue jackets, shirts, vests, and hats. All docents are required to wear this identifying apparel, however they are also expected to purchase their clothing themselves. Trying to underwrite uniform costs for all of our 200 docents is not feasible. However, we would like to have some clothing available for those docents for whom purchasing these uniforms is a financial hardship. Most of our docents are retirees, and many live on fixed incomes. They selflessly give hours and hours of time to their volunteer work (we have some among them who have earned over 10,000 volunteer hours with us!), and we would like to help make sure that volunteering for our park programs does not create a financial burden on those volunteers. The docent clothing fund would be a restricted fund savings account, used only when a docent expresses a need for financial assistance with their docent clothing purchases.

CCSPA internal funding opportunities

Overhead and operational costs aren't the sexy parts of giving, but they are often the most needed. CCSPA is looking for funding assistance in the following areas to help us do our job more effectively.

Projection Equipment: Blu-Ray player, projector, portable screen

Expected Need: \$3000

For our annual film festival, Mind Walks series in the winter, and multiple docent gatherings, talks, and workshops, we need good projection equipment. We have used our current equipment longer than we should have, unfortunately to the detriment of some of the Mind Walks presentations. This equipment will be shared between many of our programs, and used almost year-round.

Roof Repair & New Solar Panels for the Monarch Grove Trailer

Expected Need: \$10,000

Over 100,000 visitors come to the Monarch Butterfly Grove in Pismo State Beach during the wintering season (Nov - Feb). State Park docents and interpreters guide visitors via talks and presentations, roving assistance, school group field trips, bus tours, and more. The Mercantile Trailer is open every day of the week during the season, is staffed by volunteers, and provides visitors with an opportunity to take home educational materials regarding monarch butterflies as well as souvenirs from their visit. There is NO hard wired electricity at the Monarch Grove, so the trailer has been using solar panels. Unfortunately the roof is in bad disrepair and the current panels are getting old, often with problems that end up getting quick fixes and temporary solutions. We need to fix the roof and would like to completely replace the solar panels & system for the trailer, resulting in a reliable and clean source of energy at the grove.

Sheds for our Firewood Program

Expected Need: \$14,000

Our firewood sales are a large part of our regular income stream. CCSPA sells firewood through the camp hosts at the campgrounds at Morro Bay State Park, Morro Strand State Beach, Montaña de Oro State Park, and Pismo State Beach. We count on our firewood sales to net around \$40,000 each year. Unfortunately, the sheds that store the firewood at each camp host's site are in poor condition and all need to be replaced. Each new shed will cost \$2,000, and we hope to replace the seven sheds a few at a time over the next few years.

State Park Interpreter and Docent Continuing Education Fund

Expected Need: \$1,000+

As educators, the work of State Park interpreters and docents is continually emerging, and ongoing training is essential. While CA State Parks believes in supporting continuing education for their staff, these are funds that often get cut during tight budgets. CCSPA would like to create an ongoing fund to support the continuing education of our interpreters and docents.

Spokes Training & Facilitation

Expected Need: \$1,020

We are fortunate to live in a community that has an organization like Spokes. Formerly the Nonprofit Support Center, Spokes provide resources for everything that a nonprofit could need - from research materials to physical and online libraries, opportunities to connect with other local nonprofit professionals, and much more. Two of the most valuable aspects of Spokes services are their trainings and consultation services. As Spokes members, we have utilized these services as staff and board members, always with excellent experiences and success. We would like to make these trainings available to more of our organization, such as the docents, State Parks partners, and new board members. Training classes cost between \$20 - \$50 per person, and consulting services run at \$50/hr. Funding for one annual facilitation from Lesley Santos Dierks, Spokes CEO (12 hours x \$50 = \$600) and 12 training classes per year (\$35 x 12 = \$420) would provide us with a great resource to achieve and maintain organizational clarity, effectiveness, responsibility, and transparency.

Flat Screen for Conference Room

Expected need: \$2,500

At CCSPA, we are always trying to act in accordance with our concern and care for the earth and our natural resources. From being diligent with recycling to using post-consumer recycled paper for printing, we want to put the earth first. We would like to have a flat screen in our conference room, which will allow anyone meeting there to project information and documents on the screen rather than bring multiple hard copies - which often end up in the recycling bin immediately following the meeting. Not only will CCSPA activities benefit, but we make our conference room available to other nonprofit groups who need a meeting room, so we have an opportunity to model eco-conscious decisions. The flat screen will have HDMI inputs, so anyone can plug their own computer in to the screen.

Store Displays

Expected Need: ~~\$2,000~~ \$1,000 (we've been halfway successful with this wish already!)

We have worked hard this year to provide an excellent selection of items for sale in our retail shops. While the selection is wonderful, these unique and fabulous selections are being displayed on old tables, shelves, and in plastic Tupperware. We need some updated and more appealing display fixtures, primarily in our store at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History.

Thank you for considering our funding opportunities. For more information about these needs, or to discuss a funding idea of your own, please contact CCSPA Executive Director Laura Albers at 805.548.0391 or ed@centralcoastparks.org. Together, we keep our parks as healthy and happy places to be!