

The Ohio River Way Small Grants Program



PURPOSE

The Ohio River Way is pleased to offer for the first time a **Small Grants Program** to support projects/activities that 1) support the mission of the Ohio River Way 2) educate young people (K-12) about the history, ecology or water quality of the Ohio and its tributaries; 3) occur partially or wholly in the Ohio River Basin, and 4) follow sound environmental practices. The Ohio River Way offers this program to schools (K-12) and non-profit educational, environmental and/or recreational 501(c)(3) organizations including Boy Scout/Girl Scout/Boys & Girls Clubs. Special consideration will be given to projects which provide “hands-on, minds-on” learning opportunities as well as those that engage young people in environmental stewardship projects. Funds for this small grants program have been made possible from Ohio River Way/Paddlefest proceeds.

Examples:

1. Trail building
2. Re-vegetation projects
3. Rain gardens
4. Environmental related lessons

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of The Ohio River Way is to promote and enhance the recreational qualities of our region’s most valuable natural resource, the Ohio River.

SOLICITATION OF PROPOSALS

The Ohio River Way will announce the availability of its small grants program through The Ohio River Way website, www.ohioriverway.org and through media outlets. Applications may be downloaded from the web site. Eligible organizations in the Greater Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky and Southeastern Indiana areas are invited to submit their applications. Timeline is as follows:

- February 1, 2009 - official announcement of small grants program
- April 15, 2009 - application deadline. Must be postmarked April 15, 2009 or received electronically on or before that date.
- May 1, 2009 - grant recipients selected. Letters to successful recipients will be sent first week in May inviting recipients to attend Paddlefest 2009 for check award presentation.
- June 26, 2009 - grant recipients announced at Paddlefest River Music Festival and grants awarded.

RESTRICTIONS AND GUIDELINES

- Up to 5 awards per calendar year will be given with an average grant amount of \$500.
- Recipients are not eligible to receive more than one grant from The Ohio River Way in the same calendar year.
- Funds may be used for supplies, equipment, and travel; salaries, stipends or general operating support will not be funded.
- All proposals must be typed and no longer than 5 pages (single spaced) in addition to the attached small grants application form. Proposals should include a project budget for the requested funds.

- Proposals may be sent electronically to info@ohioriverway.org or mailed to The Ohio River Way, PO Box 43261 Cincinnati, Ohio 45243. Mailed applications must be postmarked by April 1, 2009 for consideration.
- Grant applications must include a copy of your IRS 501 (c) (3) determination letter (electronically or by mail).
- Review and scoring of all proposals will be performed by The Ohio River Way's grant committee.
- Awardees must deliver a final written report that summarizes the use of the grant and the associated outcomes by the end of the calendar year in which the grant was received.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Grant proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- How does the proposed project pertain to the mission of The Ohio River Way?
- Can the proposed project be completed within a reasonable time frame?
- Does the proposed project fill a need?
- Has applicant given some indication of previous experience or aptitude for the proposed work?
- Will the proposed project result in a greater awareness, protection or recreation of the Ohio River, its byways, water and hiking trails?

Ohio River Way Small Grant Proposal Form



Organization Name: Phone:

Address:

Contact Name(s) And title(s):

Email Address

Web site

Project Title:

Justification Of The Proposed Project:

Brief Description: (You may provide additional information up to five pages, including a detailed project budget.)

YOU MUST ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. Are you seeking funding from other sources for this project?
YES ___ NO _____

If so, please indicate the percentage that the ORW funds reflect in the total budget. _____%

2. Approximately how many people will benefit from your project? _____

Signature

Date

