

## **The American Alpine Club Cornerstone Conservation Grant**

### **The American Alpine Club's Cornerstone**

Conservation Grant funds essential infrastructure at climbing areas. Individuals or communities that see a need for local infrastructure can propose projects that will improve, conserve, and protect their climbing resources for years to come.

In 2011, \$25,000 in grants will go toward local projects that can include but are not limited to: fixed anchor improvement, new trails, human waste management solutions, parking, and signage. Funds also may be used in-part for training in conservation and sustainability practices. Applicants may be individual climbers on behalf of a local climbing organization, regional club, or public agency, an AAC Section or climbing group, or not-for-profit (501 (C)(3)) organization. Grants range from \$1,000 to \$15,000, depending on the size and scope of project.

The most successful proposals will have substantial local climbing community support, show use of best practices, demonstrate a sustainability plan, and have measurable and achievable goals. Projects require a landowner partner and must show completion within 18 months. Only projects in the United States will be considered. All proposals must be endorsed by a local AAC Section. ([chapters.americanalpineclub.org](http://chapters.americanalpineclub.org))

The AAC Cornerstone Conservation Grant does not fund expedition travel, project overhead, salaries, land purchase, general maintenance, or research.

The Cornerstone Conservation Grant has grown out of a decade of American Alpine Club underwriting and volunteerism. Past AAC projects include new trails and human-waste management policies at Utah's Castleton Tower and Indian Creek climbing areas, a new human-waste management system in Grand Teton National Park, new trails and waste-management systems in Rocky Mountain National Park's Lumpy Ridge climbing area, and the [Clean Mountain Can](#) program on Denali.

### **How To Apply**

The AAC is accepting applications May 7 through August 15. Download applications from [americanalpineclub.org/cornerstone](http://americanalpineclub.org/cornerstone). Applicants will be advised on or before September 15, 2011.

# **THE AMERICAN ALPINE CLUB CORNERSTONE CONSERVATION GRANT**

## **Guidelines**

### **Who Can Apply**

Applicants can be individual climbers on behalf of a local climbing organization or public agency, an AAC Section or climbing group, or not-for-profit (501 (C)(3)) organization or local partnership formed by climbers. *All grants must be endorsed by a local AAC Section.*

Grants to Individuals: Anyone who applies for the Cornerstone grant must apply on behalf of a sponsoring organization that has a current Tax ID. No funds will be released directly to an individual.

AAC membership is not required but is encouraged

### **The Cornerstone Conservation Grant**

\$25,000 in grants will be made in 2011 for local projects that can include but are not limited to new or sustainably improved fixed anchors, trails, toilets, and signage. Funds may also be used in part for training on techniques for local crag conservation and sustainability as part of the project.

### **We fund projects that**

- Have substantial local climbing community involvement and support
- Use local volunteer labor and pro-bono services
- Can show use of best practices for sustainability
- Demonstrate that they have a sustainability plan
- Have measurable goals
- Improve land conservation and practice
- Demonstrate reduced climber/recreational user impact
- Have a realistic timeline that show completion within 18 months of grant approval
- Have a landowner partner (public lands agency or private landowner) with a written agreement
- Have the EIR and other documents as required

- Have a realistic budget and cash flow projections
- Have a fiscal sponsor that has a current tax ID
- Include 'Leave No Trace' practices
- Are based in the United States
- *Endorsed by a local AAC Section*

**The AAC Cornerstone Conservation Grant does not fund**

- Expedition travel expenses,
- Project overhead or management costs,
- Land purchase,
- General maintenance costs,
- Feasibility studies,
- Research,
- Salaries
- Political campaigns or lobbying
- For-profit projects or programs.

**THE AMERICAN ALPINE CLUB  
CORNERSTONE CONSERVATION GRANT**

**INFO**

**TIMING:** 2011 applications will be accepted from **May 7 to August 15, 2011**

**APPLY TO:** Email completed applications (no paper submissions) to Cornerstone2011@americanalpineclub.org

**FORMAT:** All grant applications must be in PDF or “Word” file format. Name your file(s) as follows: (last name of person submitting) (space) CCG11 (doc descriptor) .doc or pdf. For multiple documents, including required attachments, add a short descriptor (ex: IRS, 990, photos, layout, budget).

Example: Jordan CCG11 app.doc

**CONTENT:** Follow the application format below. Please keep the application document itself as compact as possible.

- Additional photos (hosted on a photo sharing service) and videos (hosted on YouTube or other service) and supporting documents such as scanned maps and EIR’s are welcome. Include the URL’s for hosted media in your application.

**QUESTIONS?** If you have a question on your project’s suitability, email the grants administrator at: cornerstone@americanalpineclub.org

**CHECKLIST of Required Application Documents:**

- \_\_\_ Applying organization’s 990
- \_\_\_ Applying organization’s Tax Exempt letter
- \_\_\_ Fiscal sponsor’s letter of support and tax ID number/EIN
- \_\_\_ Fiscal sponsor’s most recent annual financial statement or 990 (government and state agencies not required)
- \_\_\_ Land owner’s letter of support/agreement and insurance certification (liability insurance)
- \_\_\_ Completed application with digital signature

\_\_\_\_ Attachments such as photos, maps, etc. (keep to a minimum)

## **GRANTEE COMMITMENTS:**

1. A **project completion report** within 45 days of completion. If the project takes more than 12 months from grant approval date to completion, submit an interim report. Send all reports to [cornerstone@americanalpineclub.org](mailto:cornerstone@americanalpineclub.org).

These reports must include

- Summary of objectives and goals met,
- Financial report showing final costs (submit receipts),
- Photos of completed project
- Press coverage of the project (print and online)
- Links to web sites and online content for the project
- Landowner/agency letter stating project is completed and meets stated goals

During the project we encourage grantees to keep us updated. Send your news and photos to [Cornerstone@americanalpineclub.org](mailto:Cornerstone@americanalpineclub.org)

2. **Signage** for the project approved by the AAC, including the AAC logo and stating “Thanks to the American Alpine Club Cornerstone Conservation Grant”.
3. Any **project outreach/Publicity** in print, video, web page or other online form must include the AAC logo and the words “This project made possible by the American Alpine Club Cornerstone Conservation Grant”.

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## **Frequently Asked Questions**

Q: When and how will funds be released?

A: Most often upon submittal of invoice from the fiscal sponsor detailing costs incurred. For large projects on federal or state lands, some funds may be released prior to start of project or in pre-agreed-upon phases. In some instances the grant committee may approve start up funding.

Q: How long can the project be?

A: Projects should be completed within 18 months. No grant funds will be released after 24 months of approval of the grant.

Q: What about unused funds?

A: All funds not used must be returned to the AAC within 10 days of project completion.

Q: I am an individual who sees a need. How can I apply?

A: First, engage your regional AAC Section as you will need their formal support. You may apply as an individual but you will need a landowner partner and a fiduciary agent.

For a large project we recommend you form a local coalition with other climbers, your Local Climbing Organization, and/or non-profits such as the Access Fund, the ASCA, and other recreation organizations. This will help you raise additional funds and build up a volunteer base.

Q: What about stewardship?

A: The best Cornerstone projects have a plan for maintenance and stewardship for the next five years or longer. For example, if your project is to build a composting toilet, how will it be maintained? Who will pay for ongoing supplies? Do you have a public agency who will take over its operation?

Q: Can the Cornerstone Grant cover 100% of project costs?

A: Ideally, we would like a 50% or greater match to the grant. In some instances we will consider lower percentage matches for essential projects.