

The Ronald Mann Endowment

NOTE: The Ronald Mann Endowment funds are restricted to tax deductible (C3) activities.

Brief history: The Ronald Mann Endowment Fund is a bequest of \$50,000 to the Sierra Club Foundation (C3 – tax deductible funds). Management of the endowed fund shall provide ongoing support for the charitable activities of the Sierra Club’s Wisconsin Chapter for the protection and preservation of the environment. The Chapter will receive \$2,500 annually (or 5% of the value of the endowment) to be used for charitable (c-3) activities with the first distribution made near the end of 2003.

In a resolution passed in March 2020, the Wisconsin Chapter Executive Committee changed the reporting requirement “Make a short presentation at an Executive Committee meeting” to “submit a written summary of the project to the Finance Committee, who will briefly report to the Executive Committee.”

In the past, the Wisconsin Chapter has awarded grants to projects including:

- **2007: The Community of Youth project;** A Great Waters Group project designed to increase children’s interest and participation in the environment and the Great Waters Group
- **2007: Sustainability Conference;** A Fox Valley Sierra Group conference that focused on sustainability issues in the Fox Valley region
- **2008: Paradise Lost;** A Four Lakes Group project that provided educational presentations in 3-5 participating communities to bring the science of climate change to ordinary citizens.

Intent of the Donor: To provide ongoing support for the charitable activities of the Sierra Club’s Wisconsin Chapter for the protection and preservation of the environment.

Examples of possible tax deductible Grants:

- Develop a water monitoring team and purchase the appropriate equipment
- Develop a tour of local polluters (or local solution businesses)
- Fund a local/regional conference focusing on an issue of importance to the Group and its members

Accrual of Funds:

The Wisconsin Chapter receives \$2,500 annually (5% of the value of the endowment to be used for charitable (c-3) activities, subject to the rate of return on invested funds. It is Foundation’s policy that 5% of the three-year average of the Mann endowment is transferred to the Wisconsin Chapter granting fund each year.

NOTE: The Planned Giving Office of the National Sierra Club advised that ‘the endowment was set up to benefit the John Muir Chapter (now known as the Wisconsin Chapter) ‘in perpetuity. This means that the Chapter will receive \$2,500 annually (5% of the value of the endowment) to be used for charitable (c-3) activities. ’

Award Criteria:

- Project must support charitable, tax deductible activities of the Sierra Club's Wisconsin Chapter for the protection and preservation of the environment
- Eligible grantees: Applicants must be a Group within the Chapter, an official project or program of a Group, and / or a Section or Specialty Group of the Chapter.
- Completion of Ronald Mann Grant Application and submittal to Chapter Finance Committee. The proposal request should not exceed the amount set by the Finance Committee for the Mann Grant in any given year.
- Proposals that address priority issues of the National, Chapter and, or a Group of the Sierra Club will be given priority.
- Defined Project: A well thought out project with a clear intended result identified.
- Resources –Some combination of financial & people – i.e. volunteer leaders, volunteer participants and/or staff available and committed to implementing the planned project/campaign.
- The awarded grant must be used by the entity/person applying for the Grant and cannot be passed through or on to another entity.
- Proposal must be submitted to compliance.review@sierraclub.org to assure c3 (tax-deductible) eligibility prior to submission to the Wisconsin Chapter.

Approval process:

Completed applications should be submitted to the wisconsin.chapter@sierraclub.org or sent to Sierra Club – Wisconsin Chapter, c/o Mann Grant Application, 754 Williamson St., Madison, WI 53703 by October 15.

The Finance Committee will review all applications submitted by the deadline in the fourth quarter of the year and make recommendations for awards to the Executive Committee prior to their final meeting in November or December.

Mann Grant Awards will be given to applications that are recommended by the Finance Committee and approved by 2/3 vote of Executive Committee members present at a regularly scheduled meeting each year.

Pending funds availability, the Finance Committee will award up to 3 grants per year, with total grants disbursed not exceeding \$2,500 per year.

Reporting requirements:

Grantees are required to submit a simple report using the form developed by the Chapter of project accomplishments at the conclusion of the grant. The grantee shall:

- Submit a written summary of the project to the Finance Committee, who will briefly report to the Executive Committee
- Submit an article for the Group and Chapter *Wisconsin Sierran* newsletter
- Submit documentation (receipts, invoices paid, copy of materials used or meeting agendas etc.) of expenses that the grant was used to pay (Mann grant funds are provided from the Chapter Treasurer in the form of reimbursements for qualified expenses)
- Awardee agrees to complete the project and submit all expenses for reimbursement within 12 months of the approval of the grant or refund the money to the Wisconsin Chapter's Mann Grant Fund.
- Awardees are not eligible for future grants until all previous grant requirements are met.

