



County of Marin Community Service Fund Program Application Form

Application Date March 30, 2018

Fiscal Year July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

Organization Information

Full Legal Name: Slide Ranch

Organization URL: slideranch.org

Mission/purpose of your organization:

The mission of Slide Ranch is to connect children to nature. We cultivate healthy bodies and minds and foster future generations of environmental stewards. By farming, cooking, caring for animals and exploring wilderness and the coast, we teach people of all ages to see the connection between their own health, a healthy food system and a healthy environment.

Slide Ranch provides equity in access to nature education to 10,000 visitors annually—one third of which are from Marin County and participate in School and Community Group programs. Over 70% of schools and programs receive financial support, especially title I schools and underserved communities such as the Canal, Marin City and Novato. The flagship day and overnight programs are designed to address an increasingly prevalent “nature deficit disorder” and also give many kids an opportunity to breath from their daily stressful lives and discover a sense of belonging.

Since 1970, Slide Ranch has been a jewel of Marin County.

Grant Request Information

Program/Project Name: Equitable access for School and Community-Group Nature Education Program

Amount Requested Dollar: \$10,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$451,400.00

Description of the proposed project/program, including the proposed project's goal(s), and the nature of the costs in specific terms, i.e. materials, labor costs, etc. Specifics of how the requested County funds will be used.

Goals of the School and Community Group Program represent our mission to connect participants to nature, deepen understanding of man’s environmental impact, increase awareness about food sources and foster willingness to engage in healthy behaviors related to food and nutrition.

The immersive nature-education program is accessible to all youth/teens, regardless of socio-economic status. Prior to their visit, many have never viewed stars in the sky, smelled musty sheep’s wool, learned where eggs come from, harvested and tried healthy and delicious kale, find creatures in our tide pools or heard spouting whales from mere feet away. On guided hikes and tide pool explorations, students learn about local plants and ecosystems. They milk goats and learn the roles of goats, sheep, chickens, ducks and bees in producing food and fiber. They create cheese from goat milk. Students make “farm to fork” connections through garden-based projects such as planting seedlings and harvesting organic vegetables, then cooking a meal using freshly harvested healthy foods. Students learn sustainable practices such as solar energy applications and composting. All our curriculum is aligned with the National Science Standards.

Major costs associated with the flagship program are for staffing and fee waivers for Title I schools and low-income community groups. Subsidies bridge ever-increasing transportation and related insurance expenses. Program success requires considerable effort to remove participation barriers. Therefore, Slide Ranch provides camping equipment. TIRs accommodate varied learning levels through small-group (8-10) instruction. Finally, fee subsidies are provided to 70 percent of the program’s participants on a sliding scale.

Marin County funds would specifically address education equity for Marin participants, offsetting fee waiver expense to ensure students accessibility to experiential nature education and opportunities to build a sense of well being and resilience.

List of all community interests that will be affected by the proposed project/program and the public benefit to be derived from it:

The awe-inspiring setting of the Slide Ranch teaching farm, perched in the rugged Marin Headlands of GGNRA, connects visitors emotionally. Slide Ranch is a magical Marin County destination that feels otherworldly and yet is within close proximity to urban life. Slide Ranch makes considerable effort to provide accessibility to this magical place to all. Young people gain an appreciation for wildlife and understanding of thoughtful land stewardship. Students get big ideas at Slide Ranch. As one visiting group leader says, Slide Ranch offers a “bigger world-view” to her students, particularly those who are rarely able to venture beyond their own community.

School and community groups that participate in our programs become repeat visitors. Marin County visitors that have a continued interest and benefit from the Slide Ranch School and Community Group Program include but are not limited to: Bayside Martin Luther King Academy, Marin City; Huckleberry; Redwood HS, Larkspur; Coleman school, Glenwood, MarinSel-Terra Linda HS, San Pedro School, and Short school, San Rafael; Marin Community School, County; Project Avary in Novato; Marin Senior Access.

Visitors learn how to proactively incorporate sustainable practices for growing food, composting, and harnessing nature’s power through solar, wind and precipitation, and about interdependency, how animals, plants and land are all connected. Slide Ranch is a place where a seed is planted for youth and teens to champion wildlife protection through everyday lifestyle choices. Slide Ranch also introduces youth to broader career choices in environmental and science fields. Young learners share their knowledge and a growing passion for the natural world into their own communities. Many young visitors return with their family to share what they’ve learned. The Slide Ranch experience is fundamental to ongoing classroom learning and outdoor experiences that inform our future leaders.

The total amount received for the past three fiscal years:

Year	Amount	Project
2016 - 2017	\$1,000.00	Trail restoration damaged by heavy rain
2015 - 2016	\$4,000.00	Support visits to Slide Ranch from Marin County Youth, including at-risk youth and schools
2014 - 2015	\$0.00	

No County funding was received for this project or others.

Project/program can be completed if amount received is less than requested amount of Community Service funds.

Applicants are encouraged to leverage funding from other non-County sources, and priority will be given to requests that represent no more than 50% of total project cost. To demonstrate all sources of project funding, including other County sources, please provide a project/program budget below. Please fill in as applicable, and round to the nearest dollar.

Project Funding Sources	Funding Agency	Funding Requested	Received	Notes
County CSF		\$10,000		
Federal Grant		\$0	\$0	
State Grant		\$0	\$0	
Individual Contributions		\$326,400	\$45,000	
Other Local Agencies		\$0	\$0	
In kind services		\$5,000	\$1,000	
Other		\$110,000	\$67,000	<i>Businesses and rentals</i>
Total Sources		\$451,400	\$113,000	
Project Expenses		Budgeted	Spent to Date	Notes
Personnel Costs		\$338,550	\$84,638	
Services and Supplies		\$112,850	\$56,425	
Capital		\$0	\$0	
Other		\$0	\$0	
Total Expenses		\$451,400	\$141,063	