

National Steeplechase Foundation

Grant Guidelines, Policies, and Application

The National Steeplechase Foundation operates a broad grant-making program. The Foundation identifies and provides discretionary fund support to issues and opportunities that address immediate and long term needs in American steeplechasing. The Foundation also awards grants to individuals and organizations through an open and competitive process. While preserving flexibility to meet new opportunities that enhance the sport, the following serve as a guide for the National Steeplechase Foundation's Board of Directors in its grantmaking decisions.

Funding Principles

We invite proposals central to the work of the National Steeplechase Foundation:

- Encouraging discourse about critical issues related to steeplechasing;
- Enhancing the safety, fairness, quality, and popularity of the sport;
- Developing and expanding the pool of owner, trainers, riders, and officials;
- Providing educational opportunities for horsemen and the public;
- Nurturing the traditions and the advancement of American steeplechasing and the spirit of amateurism.

Funds are *not* available for:

- Ongoing operating support or annual fund drives;
- Political purposes;
- Endowments;
- Debt or operating deficit reduction;
- Projects normally the responsibility of government;
- Private foundations;
- Retroactive funding for project expenses incurred before the Foundation's decision date;
- Race course improvements (fence and course renovation/repair, structural additions/repairs, turf renovation/repair, irrigation systems, etc.).

The National Steeplechase Foundation considers numerous criteria in reviewing grant proposals. For example, does this project:

- Advance the principles of the National Steeplechase Foundation?
- Benefit a meaningful number of people in relation to its cost?
- Identify and assist a need not being met by existing programs?
- Promote collaboration among groups?
- Establish outcomes that can be evaluated?

Grants are made on an equal opportunity basis. Funds are to be used solely for the purposes stated in your application. Any portion of the grant not used by you in accordance with your proposal must be returned to the Foundation.

Grant recipients are asked to provide the Foundation with progress report(s). Reports should detail how dollars were expended, any significant difficulties encountered, what the project achieved and any changes to the goal of the project.

How to Apply

The completion of the attached cover sheet must accompany a grant proposal. Proposals must be in a font of at least 12-point size, have reasonable margins and be no longer than 2 pages in length. Before submitting a proposal, prospective grantees are encouraged to call and briefly discuss the proposal or send a letter summarizing the project to ensure it fits within the National Steeplechase Foundation's guidelines and funding process.

When sending a grant proposal, please enclose **two unbound copies** of the proposal and all supporting documents. All grant applications must include the following information regarding the project and applicant:

- Basic background, organizational, and contact information for the applicant;
- A description of the purpose of your project;
- Why the organization/ individual is the one to carry out the proposal;
- Qualifications of staff who will work with the grant funds;
- Timetable for the project;
- How the project's success will be evaluated;
- Plans for the financial support for effective continuation of the project, if applicable

Proposals should be mailed to the Foundation. If you would like to hand deliver your application, or call to discuss eligibility, please contact the Foundation's office. **National Steeplechase Foundation, 400 Fair Hill Drive, Elkton, MD 21921 (410) 392-0700**

Deadlines and Notification

The National Steeplechase Foundation considers grants twice per year, with deadlines for proposals two months before the meeting to ensure thorough review. **For consideration at the board meeting, your completed application and supporting materials must be received or postmarked by the deadline date.** The offices close promptly at 5:00pm. Facsimile or email applications cannot be accepted.

<u>Proposal Deadline</u>	<u>Grant Decision</u>	<u>Notification Date</u>
January 15	March 15	April 15
August 15	October 15	November 15

The Executive Committee reviews grant applications and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors. You will be advised of the Board's decision by mail shortly thereafter. An unsuccessful application does not reflect the worthiness of a particular project as the National Steeplechase Foundation receives more requests than it can fund. NSF generally issues a press release about grants made. Organizations are also asked to provide publicity, which acknowledges NSF support, after receiving a grant.