



**Lewis and Clark Trail Stewardship Endowment  
Bicentennial Trail Stewardship Grant Application Evaluation Process**

The amount of funding made available every year for Bicentennial Trail Stewardship Grants is determined by the Board of Directors and is dependent on the financial health of the fund. Every effort is made to make 5% of the Endowment available for trail stewardship projects upon the advice of the Bicentennial Trail Stewardship Advisory Committee (BTSAC).

The BTSAC is a Bylaws governed standing LCTHF committee:

Section 4.6. Bicentennial Trail Stewardship Advisory Committee: The Bicentennial Trail Stewardship Advisory Committee shall be a standing committee of the Foundation.

1. Duties: The Bicentennial Trail Stewardship Advisory Committee shall make recommendations to the Board of Directors for distributions from the Bicentennial Trail Stewardship Endowment, in accordance with the Fund Agreement dated December 26, 2006.
2. Members, Terms: The Bicentennial Trail Stewardship Advisory Committee shall consist of three (3) members who shall serve for staggered three-year terms. Members may serve two consecutive terms of three years.
3. Appointment, Nominations of Bicentennial Trail Stewardship Advisory: The President shall appoint new committee members at the beginning of each fiscal year after first soliciting nominations from sitting or past committee members, the Foundation Board of Directors, the Foundation membership or staff members.
4. Chair: The Bicentennial Trail Stewardship Advisory Committee chair shall be elected by the committee from its members on an annual basis.

The Board of Directors decided to add three additional members to the advisory committee to expand representation of experience and geographic knowledge of the trail to the committee

After the applications are received, the committee reads and ranks the applications according to the approved criteria (below). These criteria reflect the sideboards governing the use of the funding and the intent of the program which was set up at the time the LCTHF received the funding. The six committee members rank the applications. They meet, discuss their findings, and arrive at a consensus on which projects should be sent to the Board for approval.

Other qualitative considerations include: 1) Distribution across trail states; 2) Diversity of types of projects; 3) Quality of the application; 4) Prior performance (if applicable).

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**Project Ranking Criteria**

**1. NATIVE AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT**

Are Native American Tribes or Tribal members the project leader or involved individually or through official consultation? Does the project involve an action, artifact, physical site, or subject matter content relating specifically to Native American and Lewis and Clark Interaction?

**2. RELEVANCE TO LEWIS & CLARK AND/OR THE EXPEDITION**

Is the project directly on official the LCNHT? Is the project tied to significant L&C expedition or commemoration events (i.e., signature Bicentennial event at Monticello, expedition prep in Philadelphia and Lancaster, PA, dig at Big Bone Lick, KY)? If the project is not on the officially designated trail, is it tied to an expedition member (birth place, burial place, etc.) or houses significant expedition artifacts (i.e., expedition botanical collection in Philadelphia, air rifle, expedition portraits, etc.)

*\*If this Criterion is not met, then the application will not be considered further for funding.\**

**3. VULNERABILITY OF LEWIS AND CLARK SITE: PROTECT/PRESERVE, RESTORE, or MAINTAIN natural historic, educational, cultural resources directly tied to a Lewis and Clark Site.**

Will a site, feature, artifact, or setting etc., face immediate destruction from development, advanced aging, or natural events if project is not funded? Will project restore resource (or stop further) site, feature, artifact, or setting deterioration? Will project maintain an existing site, feature, artifact, or setting whose primary purpose is to interpret or provide public access to a Lewis and Clark Site?

**4. INTERPRETATION OF L&C LEGACY FOR THE PUBLIC: On the LCNHT**

Is the primary purpose of the project to install a facility which interprets the natural, cultural, or historic resources associated with L&C? Does the project develop educational resources specific for schools or youth to learn about L&C?

**5. DEVELOPS NEW PUBLIC ACCESS OF AWARENESS PRODUCT to L&C Site, Feature, Artifact, or Resource**

Does project provide new public access (provide public access where none existed before)? Does project include new onsite awareness of feature or artifact at an existing site? i.e., interpretive signing where none existed before? Does proposal provide new offsite public awareness of feature or site i.e. internet, brochure, book, pamphlet, etc.

**6. ENHANCES PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OR ADVANCE PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE OF THE L&C EXPEDITION**

Does the project provide a direct “on the trail” educational experience as a way to further the public’s knowledge about the Expedition (educational event)? Does the project contribute to the

## Project Ranking Criteria Continued

acquisition of knowledge (research) about the natural and cultural resources associated with the Lewis and Clark Story and Trail?

7. **STRENGTH OF CASH MATCH**

What is the strength of the cash match?

8. **STRENGTH OF VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION**

What is the strength of volunteer participation and commitment? Federal guidelines for value of volunteer hours are used to assign monetary value of volunteer effort which changes each year.

9. **YOUTH INVOLVEMENT**

Does the proposal involve a Boy Scout Eagle or service project, Girl Scout or Heritage Girls service project, student internship, school project, or other organized youth group?

10. **LCTHF CHAPTER INVOLVEMENT**

Is the project proposed, sponsored, and supported by a LCTHF Chapter? If so, which Chapter?

11. **OUTDOOR RECREATION POTENTIAL OR BENEFIT**

Does the project promote family oriented outdoor recreation opportunities akin to activities undertaken during the L&C Expedition such as boating, hiking, horseback riding, primitive skills? Is the activity on private land or public land? Does the project promote other types of recreational activities along the trail that are not associated with the story of the expedition, such as mountain biking, skiing, or motorized activities?

**If the project is an educational type project, such as a school program, festival, event or scholarship, additional supplemental criteria may be applied to assist in project ranking.**

12. **CURRICULUM BASED SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

Is the program curriculum based – does it meet state standards? Would the grant be used as seed money to develop a program that is sustainable in subsequent years without grant support? Does the proposal only invest in equipment, hardware, curriculum, or supplies?

What is the scope of the proposed program? Does it serve the entire school district population or just a one grade or a small group of students?

13. **NON-CURRICULUM BASED PROGRAMS: Festivals, Public Education, General Interests, etc.**

Is the program sponsored by a Chapter? Does the proposal only invest in equipment, hardware, infrastructure or supplies? Is it a family based educational program, a program based primarily for adults, or is it open to the general public?