The ASPB Plant Biology Learning Objectives, Outreach Materials & Education (BLOOME) Grant

2020

Complete REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

* All ASPB members are eligible to apply to establish programs anywhere in the world.
* Maximum request: $50,000 for one year only
* The 2020 application opens January 15th
* Proposals must be submitted to <http://bloome.aspb.org> by 11:59 p.m. ET April 5, 2020.
* All applicants will be notified by email
* Questions should be directed to education@aspb.org

***Grant proposals are limited to 8 pages, and should include:***

1. **Introduction – Limited to one page:**
	* project title
	* principal investigator’s name and institutional affiliation
	* co-investigator name(s) and institutional affiliation(s)
	* total amount requested
	* 300-word abstract that summarizes the project goals and objectives, methods, anticipated outcomes, evaluation and dissemination plans, and sustainability.
2. **Project Description Format:** - **Limited to five pages**:

There are seven required elements (details below). The project description is limited to five pages, including references, figures, and images. Text should be **single spaced**, **12-point font**, with at least **one-inch margins**.

**Project Description Elements with Review Criteria:**

* + **Goals and objectives:** What is this project trying to achieve? Why is the project important and innovative? What previous education/outreach work has been done by the investigator(s) and/or others that lays the groundwork for the project? In what ways do the project goals and objectives align with the initiatives or resources promoted by ASPB as well as the current scientific teaching practices (e.g. Vision & Change, NGSS, etc.)?
	+ **Methods and approaches:** How will the project be implemented? Who will be involved? Who is/are the target audience(s)? What *specific* activities will take place? What is the anticipated timeline for the project? How are the proposed activities aligned with the project’s goals and objectives?
	+ **Anticipated outcomes:** What are the measureable learning objectives? What is expected to happen as a result of the project? How many participants will be involved? What should they know, appreciate, or be able to do as a result of participating in the project?
	+ **Evaluation plan:** Include a robust assessment plan for evaluating the) proposed goals and objectives. The assessment should inform further refinement of the project.What evidence will be collected that will be useful for determining whether goals and objectives are achieved? How will project outcomes be documented (e.g., number of target audience reached, knowledge or skill gains, changes in interests, attitudes, or intentions, etc.)? Who will be responsible for executing the evaluation plan and by when?
	+ **Dissemination plan:** How will project products and outcomes (instructional materials, professional development materials, exhibits, evaluation results, etc.) be shared with others who may be interested in using them (e.g., conference posters or presentations, peer-reviewed publications, newsletter articles, website, etc.)? How widely will products or outcomes be disseminated? Is there a ‘multiplier effect’ so that this project will reach beyond the local community and/or current time? What is the easy and obvious ‘buy in’ for a project’s respective audience (might it ‘go viral’ – on or offline)? Is it easy to share the project model with other scientists to inspire them to pursue similar broader impact, public outreach or education goals?
	+ **Sustainability:** *It is expected that funded programs and relationships formed via the programs are sustainable.* How will the program be maintained, continued, or enhanced after the grant budget is fully allocated?
	+ **References:** Include citations for any journal articles, books, websites, or other resources cited in the project description. Brief, embedded references are preferred.
1. **Statement of education/outreach experience and expertise – Limited to one page:**
	* The investigator(s) should describe previous education and outreach *experiences and expertise* of those involved in the project.
	* Statements should include, if appropriate, brief descriptions of previous *education and outreach projects*, including project outcomes, assessments, and impacts.
	* If appropriate, relevant references which provide evidence for the qualifications of the investigator(s) should be included (e.g., URLs for the investigators’ education/outreach websites, publications, etc.). Background on the proposal itself should be contained within the project description.
2. **Itemized Budget – Limited to one page:**
	* Budget limit is $50,000, including salary, benefits, materials, equipment, travel, and other costs. Note: salary and benefits can be funded but should not be the main priority in seeking this grant.
	* Each cost should be justified.

***Other guidelines and requirements:***

1. The Primary Investigator (PI) must be a current ASPB member. [New members](http://aspb.org/membership/) are welcome anytime.
2. Proposals are encouraged from ASPB members from both within and outside the United States and projects may serve communities in any country.
3. No indirect costs (overhead) will be covered by the grant awards.
4. No funds may be requested for endowments or granting programs.
5. Proposals that leverage the ASPB’s funds with support from other sources are encouraged, particularly for proposals requesting a full $50,000 budget.
6. A practical plan for wide dissemination is a hallmark of successful proposals. Although projects may be implemented with a small audience for initial development and pilot testing, ASPB expects project products and results to impact a broader audience and generally reach beyond a single institution or small region.
7. ASPB retains the right to the use of projects, materials, and results developed with grant funding. Upon project completion, recipients are expected to provide such materials to ASPB for dissemination at education/outreach events, e.g., NABT annual conference.
8. Beyond the sustainability inherit in each proposed program, all recipients are expected to help promote their resource(s) during future ASPB events, most especially in the education booth at annual Plant Biology meetings. Promotion also includes submitting to [www.Plantae.org](http://www.Plantae.org) and other ASPB digital archive partners.
9. All recipients agree to advise future applicants who seek their consultation on developing winning proposals.

***Sources that may be helpful in preparing successful proposals include:***

* **Project Summaries** from previously funded projects are available here <https://aspb.org/awards-funding/bloomerecipients/>
* Principle Investigators from past winning grants can advise future applicants who seek their consultation on developing winning proposals.
* **Suggested Standards:** Successful projects will align with current effective scientific teaching practices such as [Vision and Change recommendations](http://www.visionandchange.org), [Core Concepts and Learning Objectives for Plant Biology](http://aspb.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/ASPB-BSA-CoreConcepts.pdf), [12 Principles of Plant Biology](http://aspb.org/education-outreach/k12-roots-and-shoots/the-12-principles-of-plant-biology-2/), or [Next Generation Science Standards](http://www.nextgenscience.org).

**Questions?**

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