The ASPB Plant Biology Learning Objectives, Outreach Materials & Education (BLOOME) Grant 2021

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. In recent years, the award range was $5,000-$49,529, and the average award was $29,191. Many PIs do not request maximum funding.
- Successful proposals are likely to include development of educational materials (broadly defined) or activities. Regardless of the nature, the product(s) should be:
  - scalable or adaptable beyond the initial audience
  - achievable without highly specialized equipment or expertise
  - not focused on a particular geographic region of the world
  - sustainable without the need for continued funding
  - highly innovative
- Target audiences are not restricted, but preference is given to K-12 or undergraduate students
- The 2021 application opens on March 1st
- Prepare the proposal and then submit the information using the fillable form at http://bloome.aspb.org by 11:59 p.m. ET on April 12, 2021
- Applicants will be notified of the committee’s decision by email, usually within one month of the submission deadline
- Questions should be directed to education@aspb.org

Grant proposals are limited to 8 total pages. They MUST include the following labeled sections and adhere to these general formatting guidelines:

- single spaced
- 12-point font
- at least one-inch margins
- references required

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 five major elements of the project description: A) goals and objectives, B) project details, C) expected outcomes and evaluation, D) dissemination plan, and E) sustainability

2. **Project Description** - Limited to five pages including references, figures, and tables
A. **Goals and Objectives**
   - clear statement of project goals and objectives
   - importance of project
   - innovative aspects of project
   - learning objectives and how they will be measured
   - alignment of project goals and objectives with current effective scientific teaching practices such as Vision and Change recommendations, Core Concepts and Learning Objectives for Plant Biology, 12 Principles of Plant Biology, or Next Generation Science Standards

B. **Project Details**
   - project activities and timeline
   - alignment of activities with goals and objectives described in Part A
   - expected outcome(s) for participants
   - target audience(s) and number of participants
   - project personnel

C. **Expected Outcomes and Evaluation**
   - evidence-based expected outcomes
   - data collection
     - by whom
     - timeframe
     - collection process
   - robust assessment plan to:
     - evaluate whether proposed goals and objectives were achieved
     - inform further refinement of the project

D. **Dissemination Plan**
   - target audience(s) for dissemination
   - description of how the project’s products can be adapted to a broad audience
   - description of materials to be disseminated on Plantae.org and ASPB.org
   - description of materials to be presented at the ASPB Plant Biology annual meeting and desired format/venue (e.g., poster, concurrent symposium, education booth)
   - any other method(s) used to share project’s products and outcomes with others (e.g., website, conference presentations, peer-reviewed publications, newsletter, etc.)

E. **Sustainability**
   - mechanism to maintain, continue, or enhance the project past the funding period
3. **Statement of Experience and Expertise – Limited to one page**
   o evidence for the qualifications of the investigator(s), e.g., URLs for the investigators’ faculty page, education/outreach websites, publications, etc.
   o One of the following:
     o brief descriptions of previous education and outreach projects of those involved in the project(s), including outcomes, assessments, and impacts associated with the previous project(s).
     o statement of qualifications of those involved in the project and a description of how these qualifications would lead to success in an education/outreach venue if no prior experience in this realm exists.

4. **Itemized Budget – Limited to one page**
   o budget limit is $50,000; project funding is variable based on the annual committee budget, and accurate, essential budgeting may permit the funding of multiple deserving projects in a given year.
   o budget may include salary, benefits, materials, equipment, travel, or other costs for the PI and for additional support personnel and must include all costs associated with the project even if they are funded by outside sources (indicate as such).
     ✷ **Note:** PI salary and benefits categories should not exceed 20% of the budget  
     ✷ **Note:** funds for travel to and presentation at the ASPB meeting and costs associated with assessment must be included (indicate outside funding if applicable)
   o each budget item must be justified separately
   o no indirect costs (overhead) can be covered by this award
   o no funds may be requested for endowments or granting programs
   o proposals that leverage the ASPB’s funds with support from other sources are encouraged, particularly for proposals requesting a full $50,000 budget

**Other Guidelines and Requirements:**
1. The Primary Investigator (PI) must be a current ASPB member. [New members](#) are welcome at any time.
2. ASPB retains the right to the use of projects, materials, and results developed with grant funding. Upon project completion, recipients **must** provide their materials to ASPB for dissemination at education/outreach events.
3. Beyond the sustainability inherent in each proposed program, all recipients are expected to 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 including but not limited to: ASPB website & blog, ASPB Signal, and the ASPB Newsletter.
4. 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 (https://aspb.org/awards-funding/bloomerecipients/)
- Principal Investigators from past winning grants will advise future applicants who seek their consultation on developing winning proposals. Use the contact information below to request information about former grant recipients.

Questions?
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