



## Short-Term Projects 2026-2027 Grant Cycle Project Idea Worksheet

Please **thoroughly** review the project criteria at [cwc.utah.gov](http://cwc.utah.gov) before submitting your application. Then complete this worksheet and the questions found at the bottom of this page (and letter of support, if applicable) and send to Sam Kilpack at [samantha@cwc.utah.gov](mailto:samantha@cwc.utah.gov) no later than **February 10, 2026**.

Name of the project:	Central Wasatch Watershed Education Program
Location of the project:	Millcreek Canyon, Big Cottonwood Canyon, Little Cottonwood Canyon
Are you applying as an individual, or an organization? (Please list the name of the organization, if applicable)	Cottonwood Canyons Foundation
Project contact person:	Joanna Wheelton
Project contact email address:	<a href="mailto:jwheelton@cottonwoodcanyons.org">jwheelton@cottonwoodcanyons.org</a>
Project category (check all that apply) <i>*Please note your project is not required to encompass more than one category and will not be evaluated based on number of boxes checked</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation and transit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental protection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation stewardship <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic sustainability
What is the project's expected start date?	May, 2025
What is the project's expected completion date?	October, 2025
What is the estimated total cost of the project?	\$200,000
How much are you requesting from the CWC?	\$10,000
Have you reviewed your project with the appropriate authorities as outlined in the <a href="#">eligibility requirements</a> , and received their support or approval? If so, please list the name, agency, and position of each person you have spoken to.	Lindsay Anderson, US Forest Service Chelsea Phillippe, US Forest Service Adam Shaw, US Forest Service Patrick Nelson, SLCPU Watershed Nicole Smeeding, SLCPU Watershed
Does your project require any permits, and do you have those permits in-hand?	All permits/approvals are in hand
Do you have the above-mentioned permits in-hand?	Yes
Does your project require a NEPA?	
<b>IF YES:</b> Has the NEPA been completed already, or can the NEPA and the project both be completed by June 2026?	Yes
<b>I have carefully reviewed this application for accuracy and completeness. I understand that late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.</b>	<b>X Yes</b>

Please use the space below to respond to the following questions:



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1. Briefly describe your idea. How will it implement transportation and transit solutions, protect the ecosystems that originate in the Central Wasatch, steward recreational access, and/or sustain the economic viability of the project area?

CCF is seeking funding for its 2026 Central Wasatch Watershed Education Program, including the CCF Trail Stewards, Silver Lake Naturalists, Ski with a Ranger, Snowshoe with a Naturalist, and Wasatch Wildflower Festival programs. As with the CCF stewardship programs, the CCF watershed education programs have a proven track record of cost-effective efficiency:

### **Canyons Naturalist Program**

Alta Area: 3,277 Trail Interpretive Contacts

- Silver Lake Area: 14,396 Trail Interpretive Contacts
- 16 season-long volunteers serving 791 volunteer hours

### **Snowshoe with a Naturalist Program**

- 126 snowshoe tours serving 1,083 students
- 482 pairs of boots donated
- 27 season-long volunteers providing 676 volunteer hours

### **Ski with a Ranger Program**

- 48 interpretive tours serving 664 participants
- 31 season-long volunteers making 3,373 interpretive contacts

### **Canyons' Kids Days**

- 25 educational partner booths serving 675 participants

### **Wasatch Wildflower Festival**

- 244 interpretive tours to 4,643 participants
- 100 season-long volunteers providing 3,026 volunteer hours

For 2026, CCF will employ up to four season-long (non-permanent) naturalists to provide watershed education in Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons. CCF utilizes curricula designed by the Salt Lake City Public Utilities Watershed Division and the Salt Lake Ranger District of the US Forest Service. This watershed education program teaches ecology, geology, human history, and natural history topics with watershed emphasis, while incorporating watershed protection principles and drinking water awareness. This curriculum is aligned with the Utah State Common Science Core for Fourth and Fifth Grades.

This project protects ecosystems that originate in the Central Wasatch, stewards recreational access, and helps to sustain the economic viability of the project area.

2. Does this idea result in other benefits to the Central Wasatch and its users beyond what you have described above?

Yes, this project leverages community involvement. CCF anticipates working with over 200 season-long volunteers across its education programs. In 2025, CCF education programs contributed 1,095 volunteer days, and 4,888 volunteer hours to the Canyons.