

ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAILROAD CLUB

ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAILROAD HISTORICAL FOUNDATION



P.O. Box 2391
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Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation 2021 Grant Program
Request for Proposals

Introduction

The Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation was founded in 1990 by the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club as a non-profit, 501(c)3 corporation. Our mission is:

1. To promote and encourage public interest in railroad history and the impact of railroads upon the Rocky Mountain region.
2. To support the preservation of historical railroad artifacts for restoration, exhibition and/or operation.
3. To cooperate in the public education efforts of organizations with a complementary interest in the Foundation's mission.
4. To develop written and video materials relevant to railroad history to be distributed to other organizations or the public for educational purposes.

In furtherance of these goals, the Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation intends to present up to five small (up to \$1000) grants to railroad history projects for the summer of 2021. We're specifically looking for small, achievable preservation and education projects related to the railroading history of the Rocky Mountain West, preferably being done by smaller organizations.

Submission Deadline and Details

All applications must be received by email or USPS on or before April 30, 2021, to be considered. Additional questions may be asked of applicants through the end of May 2021. Checks will be mailed in early June, and the recipients will be announced in the June Rail Report and at our regular meeting on June 8, 2021, at 7:30pm.

Paper responses should be sent to:

Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation
PO Box 2391
Denver, CO 80201-2391

Electronic responses should be emailed to:
rmrc-grants@drgw.net

If emailing your RFP response, please follow up if you do not receive a confirmation email within 2-3 days.

Evaluation Criteria

The only mandatory requirement for 2021 is that the grant must be used for a railroad-related preservation or rail-related educational project. However, the RMRHF board has agreed on several guiding principles about the sorts of projects we prefer to fund. Consider these in your response:

- Scale and manageability - Preference will be given to smaller organizations with achievable projects rather than large organizations with established fund-raising bodies or being a tiny part of the funding in a very large project.
- Significance and impact - Preference will be given to projects of significant historic value or towards the preservation of critically endangered artifacts.
- Relevance - Preference will be given to projects involving the RMRHF and RMRRC's core membership area (Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming)
- Organizational Competence - Preference will be given to organizations with a strong track record of accomplishment.
- Previous RMRHF Grants – Preference will be given to new projects over previous grant recipients. (Note that this says *projects*, not *organizations*. A project that has not previously received grant money through this program is considered new, even if the organization running it was a recipient in a previous year.) *Note: Groups that have received prior grants but have not submitted the required status update by the end of that grant year may be excluded from consideration.*

Grant Proposal Required Content

All grant proposals must include the following information. You are welcome to include as much other supporting information as you would like (photographs are strongly encouraged for restoration-oriented proposals), but we believe the following points are critical to our ability to evaluate your project.

1. Project Overview - Describe the project that you will apply the grant to, both in terms of what your organization intends to accomplish and how this advances the goals of railroad history preservation and education. If the grant is to be applied to restoration or preservation of an artifact, tell us about its current condition and how, once restored, the item will be cared for in the future.
2. Project Details - Detail the work to be accomplished, the timeline for the project, projected time and materials budgets, the funds being requested of the RMRHF (up to \$1000), and how those dollars will be used.
3. Organization Details - Tell us a bit about your organization. We're looking for details such as your group's primary mission and goals, your track record on preservation projects like the one you're proposing, your group's history, and how many members you have that are actively involved.
4. Contact Information - Please list the point person in the organization managing the grant and/or the project, as well as any group officers.

Post-Grant Requirements

If chosen, your organization will be expected to spend the grant as you've detailed in your proposal. If plans for spending the grant change substantially, we request that you seek approval for an amended project plan through the Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation board.

We request that your organization submit a short article showing the results of the grant project to be published in one of our monthly newsletters. We would request that this follow-up summary be submitted to the RMRHF no later than November 15, 2021. This is an important part of keeping our membership informed about how the Foundation is using its funds to promote and preserve railroading history. Groups that do not submit a follow-up summary may be excluded from future grant consideration.

In addition, if your organization is willing to come to one of our monthly general meetings (7:30pm in Denver on the second Tuesday of each month, possibly skipping July), it would be greatly appreciated. However, given that recipients may be from anywhere, we realize that this may not always be feasible. Therefore, it is only a request, not a requirement.

We also request that you credit the Rocky Mountain Railroad Historical Foundation in your list of donors.