



Cascade Community Credit Union's Chalkboard Grants

Cascade Community accepts grant requests for classroom projects from all K-12 educators in Douglas County. Educators at both public and private schools are encouraged to participate. Individuals can only submit one application per year. If multiple teachers are working on the same project, only one grant application may be submitted per project. Online applications become available in August at www.cascadecu.org. Grant requests are due in mid September. Winners will be notified and funds distributed approximately two weeks from the submission deadline. Exact dates will be determined annually.

The Chalkboard Grants program has an annual budget of \$10,000, and offers miniature grants up to \$200. Lower amounts than requested may be granted as "seed money," when a top score is not reached but a project still merits financial support. Seed monies will be awarded as the budget allows.

Grant requests must be submitted electronically through Cascade Community's website. Mailed, faxed, or e-mailed requests (other than through Cascade Community's application website) will not be accepted. Requests will be reviewed and scored by members of Cascade Community's Member & Community Relations Committee.

Selection Process

Each project will be judged on its own merit and decisions will be strongly influenced by the following criteria:

- 1.) Innovative and creative. Requests for equipment and supplies (i.e., paper, art supplies, books, etc.) should be part of a larger, more comprehensive project. **A majority of weight will be given in this area.**
- 2.) Designed to include as many students as possible in the current school year, as well as subsequent years.
- 3.) Cascade Community's funding should play a major role in the successful implementation of the project. If a project requires funding above the \$200 Chalkboard Grant, the application budget must list the sources of the additional funding and whether it has been confirmed.
- 4.) Accuracy and clarity. Applications should be thoroughly proofread.

Projects that will not receive funding:

- 1.) Non-educational field trips (i.e. skating or pizza parties). Educational field trips that are part of a more comprehensive project may receive funding (i.e. Courthouse, Museum, State Capital, etc.).
- 2.) Faculty travel

3.)Guest speakers that are not part of a more comprehensive project

4.)Projects that provide prizes, incentives or rewards based on student participation and performance

Distribution of Funds

All funds will be awarded approximately two weeks after the submission deadline. Cascade Community will forward a copy of winning project applications to the school principal, vice principal, or department head, etc. prior to releasing the funds. Checks will be sent to and made payable to each school's general fund, referencing Cascade Community's Chalkboard Grants Program and the educator who is to receive the funds.