

**Deschutes County Board of Commissioners
Discretionary Grant Program**

Application Summary

Board Meeting Date: September 9, 2015

Organization: Deschutes County Rural Fire Protection District #2

Organization Description: Provides fire prevention education, protection, and suppression services to residents living outside municipalities and other areas in Deschutes County not already served by established fire protection districts since 1952. Serves an area of approximately 132 square miles and approximately 20,000 residents.

Project Name: Backyards & Beyond Educational Conference

Project Description: Attendance by a maximum of three representatives from local fire districts and/or residents from homeowner associations at the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Backyards and Beyond Fire Education Conference.

Project Period: October 21-25, 2015

Amount of Request: \$1,500

Previous Grants: None recorded.

Approved: _____

Declined: _____

**DESCHUTES COUNTY
DISCRETIONARY GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION**

Today's Date: August 25, 2015

Project Name: Backyards & Beyond Educational Conference

Project Beginning Date: October 21, 2015 **Project End Date:** October 25, 2015

Amount Requested: \$1,500

Date Funds Needed: October 1, 2015

Name of Applicant Organization: Deschutes County Rural Fire Protection District #2

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DESCHUTES COUNTY DISCRETIONARY GRANT PROGRAM

Organization

Deschutes County Rural Fire Protection District #2 has been providing fire prevention education, protection, and suppression services to residents living outside municipalities and other areas in Deschutes County not already served by established fire protection districts since 1952. The Deschutes County Rural Fire Protection District #2 consists of approximately 132 square miles of suburban and forested land surrounding the City of Bend, Oregon, and represents approximately 20,000 constituents. The average population of the district greatly increases seasonally due to tourism.

A five-member volunteer board of directors and a full-time, paid, executive director governs the District. The executive director handles the day-to-day operations, fiscal and contract management, and performs administrative and public relation functions of behalf of the district. The actual delivery of fire and emergency medical services to district constituents is provided through a contract with the City of Bend Fire Department. Financial services such as official financial audits and reviews are also contracted to firms specializing in those services.

Project description

This project will provide an accessible training opportunity for a maximum of three representatives from local fire districts and/or residents from homeowner associations to attend the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Backyards and Beyond Fire Education Conference. NFPA offers this training on a bi-annual basis. Backyards and Beyond is an educational opportunity that draws community leaders, researchers, insurance professionals, emergency responders, and homeowners who are involved in wildfire safety and preparedness to share their knowledge and best practices on key wildfire issues. The list of presenters show a wide range of topics such as: firefighter safety, fire adapted communities, home construction, wildfire preparedness, community communication techniques, community involvement, codes & ordinances, and best practices for wildland urban interface communities. The contact and relationship building opportunities at this training will also allow for the attendees to celebrate strides Deschutes County is making towards wildfire preparedness.

The loss of lives, homes and businesses in recent wildfires across Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and California serve as a sobering reminder of the destructive effects of wildfire. It is not a matter of if a wildfire strikes in Deschutes County but when, and each partner involved in wildfire response or preparation is looking for more information about what they can do to reduce risk in Deschutes County.

Timeline

Applicants will apply to the District, to be awarded the funding to aid in the cost of airfare or registration, which ever will make the training more accessible. Applicants who have not attended previous trainings will be given priority in the application process. The District will select up to a maximum of three applicants to attend the training. Backyards & Beyond is scheduled for October 22nd-24th, 2015. The representatives will be travelling October 21st, attending training October 22nd-24th, and travelling home October 25th.

Benefit to the Community

The local representatives attending this training will be from local fire departments and homeowner associations within Deschutes County. All these best practices will be applied as appropriate, here in Deschutes County to benefit our local residents that live in the wildland urban interface and face a wildfire threat each summer. Attending this conference presents a unique opportunity to share Deschutes County's successes with representatives from NFPA, International Fire Chief's Association, other fire adapted communities leaders, and national decision makers.

Communities that will benefit from project

The representatives will not only bring back best practices that will improve the safety of their specific community but neighboring areas and/or fire districts. Project Wildfire will facilitate the sharing of lessons learned from the representatives that attend, so the whole Deschutes County wildfire preparedness network can benefit.

Anticipated expenditures

	Discretionary Grant Funds	Match	Totals
Training Registration Fee or Airfare	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$4,500
Totals	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$4,500

The attendees will be responsible for incurring the remaining costs associated with attending the training including, but not limited to, airfare and/or the registration fee, lodging and incidentals at the conference location.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our application for consideration.