



Mini-Grant Program, 2013–14

Texas Plains Trail Region

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Update for January 2014: While general grant funding is not available from TPTR this year due to budget cuts at the state level, our own board of directors has made available a Mini-Grant Fund for small projects and emergency needs, in amounts up to \$400. The application process is the same as described below.

The Texas Plains Trail Region (TPTR) is a nonprofit organization committed to increasing heritage tourism to the 52 counties of the Texas Plains and Panhandle by making visitors and residents aware of the Region and its historical, cultural, and natural attributes; educating them about Texas history and culture; fostering historic preservation in the Region; helping improve heritage sites within the Region; and helping develop local/regional heritage tourism leadership.

To this end, our organization funds a modest grant program and welcomes proposals from any educational, historical, or cultural organization within the Region that support these aims. The Region, as defined by the Texas Historical Commission, comprises the fifty-two counties of Armstrong, Bailey, Borden, Briscoe, Carson, Castro, Childress, Cochran, Collingsworth, Cottle, Crosby, Dallam, Dawson, Deaf Smith, Dickens, Donley, Floyd, Foard, Gaines, Garza, Gray, Hale, Hall, Hansford, Hardeman, Hartley, Hemphill, Hockley, Howard, Hutchinson, Kent, King, Knox, Lamb, Lipscomb, Lubbock, Lynn, Mitchell, Moore, Motley, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Scurry, Sherman, Swisher, Terry, Wheeler, and Yoakum.

Grant parameters. The Board of Directors will consider funding for special projects, events, innovative programs, and special needs. Most grants are between \$50 and \$1,000. The chances of your organization's proposal being funded are substantially increased if the project:

- is related to or promotes heritage tourism within the Texas Plains Trail Region;
- is related to or promotes public awareness of our 52 counties and region;
- is related to or promotes historic preservation efforts;
- promotes volunteer education/participation and citizen involvement in the community;
- leverages or generates other funding or resources;
- promotes cooperation among nonprofit agencies without duplicating efforts.

A limited, supplemental, non-budgeted fund derived from special projects is sometimes available for smaller, immediate, emergency contingencies.

Restrictions. As a rule, The Texas Plains Trail does not make grants to fund:

- operating, administrative, or maintenance expenses;
- purely local events not affecting regional tourism;
- established festivals or events held annually or on a recurring basis;
- membership fees;
- ticket sales for charitable fund-raising efforts;
- sectarian religious purposes;

- capital debt reduction;
- political projects.

Requests for grants should be made *at least three months* prior to the project's launch date, to provide time for board consideration. An exception may be made emergency funds, which are not subject to a specific deadline; however, even such requests do take time to evaluate and process.

Sponsorships. In some cases the Texas Plains Trail will consider co-sponsoring an event or project, especially if it involves historical activities or education related to the historical nature of the Region including, but not limited to, education, historical involvement, or participation of living historians volunteering for the purpose of interpreting our Region's history.

Required publicity and recognition. To qualify for a grant or sponsorship, the Texas Plains Trail must be considered a partner in the sponsorship and receive appropriate recognition and publicity during the promotion and implementation of the event or project. Each event will be considered individually and evaluated by the Texas Plains Trail Region staff and/or board regarding the nature and extent of its involvement.

The Texas Plains Trail Region requires that its grants and sponsorships be publicly recognized within a press release. The Texas Plains Trail requires that its name and/or logo be included, as appropriate, on printed materials for the event.

The Texas Plains Trail Region requires a follow-up report within one month of the event/sponsorship, to include: a general report on the event/sponsorship (attendance, amount raised, if a fundraiser, extent of volunteer involvement, etc.); copies of printed materials and/or press releases; and a statement or information on how TPTR participation affected the event/sponsorship.

Further questions, and requests, may be addressed to
Texas Plains Trail Region GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIPS
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P. O. Box 88, Lubbock TX 79408-0088
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This information, and an application form, are available for download at
www.TexasPlainsTrail.com/partners-and-resources