

## 2026 Oregon Arbor Month Booster Grant Application



### What We Do

The mission of [Oregon Community Trees](#) (OCT) is to promote healthy urban and community forests through leadership, education, awareness and advocacy. In collaboration with ODF's Urban and Community Forestry Program, OCT assists community groups, local governments and schools with our expertise to support urban and community forestry, an often overlooked and valuable resource that cost-effectively enhances every Oregonian's quality of life.

### Eligibility

Oregon Community Trees is offering grants of up to \$1000 each to [Tree City USA](#) (TCUSA) communities to enrich their Oregon Arbor Month celebrations during April. Eligible communities need to have been recognized as a TCUSA for at least one year and have applied for recertification in December 2025. Communities that received the award in the Spring of 2025 are not eligible for a grant in 2026, but keep those great ideas for next year!

### Why Oregon Tree Cities?

The Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA Program requires an annual recertification effort that includes an Arbor Day celebration for participating cities. OCT supports Oregon Tree City USAs in these efforts. Since 2014, OCT has provided 66 grants to 43 different Oregon TCUSA cities worth over \$31,000.

### Schedule/Deadlines

Dec 19	Notice of grants and applications sent out
Jan 30	Applications due by 5 p.m.
Feb 12	Applications reviewed/decisions made
Feb 18	All applicants notified of decisions and Grant Agreements sent to grantees
Mar 4	Grant Agreements due back to OCT by 5 p.m.
Mar 11	Disburse funds
April	Celebrate Oregon Arbor Month (National Arbor Day is April 24, 2026)
May 16	Deadline for grant recipients to provide follow-up report and photos

- Electronic submissions of the PDF form are preferred. Responses may also be provided in the body of an e-mail or a Word document; please number responses 1-20 to match the application form.
- After their Arbor Month celebration, **grant recipients must provide OCT with documentation of how funds were spent with digital photographs or videos of the activity**—preferably with people participating in the celebration. These images, and information provided on this application, will be used to promote the grant recipient's TCUSA as well as OCT's Arbor Month Booster Grant program on our website and at our annual conference.
- Permission for OCT to use the material in this way shall be automatically approved by the grant recipient on acceptance of the award, and it shall be the grant recipient's responsibility to obtain any necessary permission when taking the required photographs or videos.

### Use of Funds

All funds are to be used to celebrate Oregon Arbor Month in your community. Funds may be used for a one-time use or event, or to purchase items that can be used for celebrations again and again. Some ideas for the using the grant are listed below. Find a list of more fun ways to celebrate Arbor Month [here](#).

- To support a community tree planting activity.
- To support a school tree planting activity with children.
- To purchase tree-related books for the local library.
- To create banners or other signage.
- To create a portable, hands-on activity station.
- To purchase tree planting tools.
- To create an award or plaque for citizens or volunteers.
- To purchase shirts, hats, vests or supplies for volunteers.
- To purchase a reusable canopy for outdoor events.
- To purchase prizes for local poster or writing contests.



2019 grant funding provided Monmouth, Oregon banners and signs for their Arbor day celebration

Please acknowledge OCT at your event by publicizing ***This project is supported with funding from Oregon Community Trees.*** We also ask that the OCT logo be displayed if your project includes printed materials or a website. Digital files will be provided for your use.

### Criteria Used to Evaluate Proposals

Preference will be given to proposals that meet the following criteria:

- Cost effectiveness and project feasibility;
- Education and/or outreach is incorporated to raise awareness and build support for community trees;
- Interdisciplinary approach that incorporates elements of diversity, creativity and science; and
- Events or materials will be placed in a prominent space that the community residents see or visit regularly.
- Proposals that demonstrate effort and intent to encourage and include diverse, financially-challenged, and/or marginalized groups will be given extra weight in the review process.



Prize winners from La Grande, OR Arbor Month celebration in 2023.

### Contact Information to Submit Application Form or Questions

Contact Avery McChristian, Grant Committee Chair, Oregon Community Trees, at (541) 306-0829 or [Grants@OregonCommunityTrees.Org](mailto:Grants@OregonCommunityTrees.Org)

1. Tree City USA: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Project Coordinator, Name: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Project Coordinator, Email: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Project Coordinator, Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Are you a: ☐ city staff person ☐ tree board member ☐ community civic org volunteer  
☐ teacher ☐ other: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Signing Authority for Grant Agreement, Name: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Signing Authority for Grant Agreement, Email: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Signing Authority for Grant Agreement, Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Grant Amount Desired (up to \$750\* per Tree City USA): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*\* Please request only the amount you NEED to enable our limited funding to support as many proposals as possible.*

10. When will your event take place? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Describe your proposed project or event (what, why, where, who will be there?): \_\_\_\_\_



12. Estimated number of participants: \_\_\_\_\_

13. How will an OCT grant “boost” your community’s Arbor Month project or event?

14. Will you be encouraging and including diverse, financially-challenged, or marginalized groups to participate in this project? If so, how?

15. What key groups or partners have committed to working on this project or event with you?

16. How will the funds be used cost-effectively?

17. Please estimate your budget below (attach a separate table if necessary).

Budget Item	OCT Funding Request	Matching Funds, if any	Total Cost
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
TOTAL BUDGET			

18. How will Oregon Community Trees be acknowledged by this project or event?

19. Any other information you would like to add (such as, how this project or event fits into your urban forestry program, whether you anticipate attracting new participants not typically engaged in urban forestry, how this grant would impact your existing budget, how your event will run smoothly, etc.).

20. Please confirm that your organization and/or the project coordinator agrees that any photos or materials supplied by the grant recipient may be used by Oregon Community Trees on its Facebook page, web page, at the annual conference or in any other print or electronic capacity deemed helpful to promote your program or event, our grant, the value of trees, and the achievements of Oregon's Tree City USA members. It is the responsibility of the photographer or videographer to solicit permissions at the time of recording.

☐ I agree

☐ I do not agree

*Thank you for submitting this application. Oregon Community Trees applauds your efforts to engage your community in celebrating trees through Arbor Month and Tree City USA recognition.*