

Emerald Youth Grant Program (EYG) Applicant Guide

This guide will help you navigate the application process and ensure your submission has all the information we need to evaluate your project.

Program Overview

The Emerald Youth Grant program empowers youth aged 5-25 across Alberta to take on environmental projects that inspire change and foster environmental stewardship. Each grant provides up to \$1,000 in funding to support meaningful initiatives.

Eligibility Criteria

Before applying, confirm that your project meets the following criteria:

1. **Group Projects:** The project must involve more than one participant
2. **Youth-Led:** Participants must be aged 5-25, excluding group leaders or mentors
3. **Alberta-Focused:** Projects must occur within Alberta
4. **Timeline:** Projects must be completed by **June 1, 2026** and must submit a final report

Key Dates

- **Applications open:** January 5, 2026
- **Application deadline:** May 4, 2026
- **Project Completion Deadline:** June 1, 2026
- **Final Report Submission Deadline:** June 19, 2026

Application Process

The EYG application form collects key details such as:

- **Eligibility Confirmation:** Verify your project meets the criteria.
- **Applicant Information:** Provide contact details for the group's primary contact.
- **Project Details:** Share your project's title, summary, and specific goals.

You can access the application form [here](#)

There are 7 sections to the EYG application:

- **Section 1:** Eligibility
- **Section 2:** Applicant Information
- **Section 3:** Getting Inspired by Alberta's Environmental Leaders

As a part of the application process, we ask that project applicants **and** participants watch/listen to an episode of the Emerald Documentary Series or What On EARTH Can We Do? Podcast to help inspire, inform, or guide your environmental project!

- Watch an episode of the [Emerald Documentary Series](#)
- Listen to the [What On EARTH Can We Do? Podcast](#)
- **Section 4:** Project Details
 - Project summary
 - A description of who will be participating in the project
- **Section 5:** Project Planning and Impacts
 - Describe your timelines, outcomes, and impacts
- **Section 6:** Project Budget
 - Download a copy of [this template](#), fill it out, and attach it to your application
- **Section 7:** Final Steps!
 - Grant payment information
 - Acceptance of the granting terms and conditions

How Applications are Evaluated

Applications are reviewed monthly by the Alberta Emerald Foundation's Communications & Engagement Specialist, Sabrina. Each submission is assessed equally and based on the clarity and completeness of the application, the project's readiness and feasibility, and its potential to strengthen environmental stewardship among youth. We look for well-planned, youth-led ideas that can be successfully completed within the grant timeline. Funding decisions are made on the first Monday of each month, and applicants are notified shortly after.

Please plan your submission accordingly:

For example, if you need your project funds by April 1, 2026, submit your application by March 1, 2026, to ensure it is reviewed on March 2, 2026

FAQs

1. Can I request more than \$1,000?

No. If your total project budget exceeds \$1,000, you must indicate how additional funds will be sourced.

2. What if our project costs less than \$1,000?

That's okay! The average grant request is \$850. You should request only what you need to complete your project.

3. How many grants are available?

The EYG grant pool consists of \$15,000. The total number of grants distributed will depend on the amount of funding requested from applicants. Once the total grant pool is distributed, the EYG program will stop accepting applications.

4. Can I apply even if I've received an EYG grant in the past?

Yes, as long as you are applying for a new project and you have submitted all final reports from previous projects.

5. How soon will I receive funding if my project is approved?

Funds are typically released within 5–10 business days after you receive your approval email.

6. Can adults help with the project?

Yes, mentors, teachers, and group leaders can provide support, but the ideas, leadership, and work must be primarily led by youth aged 5–25.

7. Can we apply if our project has already started?

Yes, as long as most of the work is still ahead, and the project can be completed by the June 1st deadline.

8. How detailed does our budget need to be?

Your budget should list the items you plan to purchase and the estimated costs. You don't need exact receipts at the application stage, but the plan must be reasonable and clear.

Please note: you must provide all receipts in your final report

Need Help?

If you have questions or need assistance with your application, please contact us at:

 sabrina@emeraldfoundation.ca